Is the American Dream still alive? Form an opinion whether or not the American Dream does exist and what its definition really is. You will be researching this topic further with research (at least three articles, essays, or pieces of research—you can have more if needed). Research sources may be any print source, website, blog, video, or other electronic source, but at least two must be from our library’s database articles. Use three quotations from each of the three required sources—after that any number of quotes from a sources is fine. At least one source should share your point of view and one should have an opposing view (to use in your refutation). Use Google to start researching if you like but favor the library databases and resources. Be sure to consider the reliability and credibility of your sources.

Respond based on what you feel the elements of this American Dream are. They could be a job, education, a house, medical care, safety, liberty. Your thesis should reflect the elements you feel are part of the American Dream. Your definition must have relevant examples, explanations, comparisons, descriptions, or factual support. Further, explore the causes and effects of recent events that may support either your definition or the opposition’s definition of “American Dream.”

A suggested organization might be:

1) Introduction (establish your point of view of the issue and state your thesis)
2) Summary and analysis of your evidence and support (multiple paragraphs, use outside source)
3) Summary, analysis, and refutation of opposing view point (length varies, use outside source)
4) Conclusion and final implication or thoughts on the issue

For examples of recent articles on the topic please see:
http://money.usnews.com/money/personal-finance/articles/2012/09/25/is-the-american-dream-dead

**SPECS** (If your paper fails to meet any of the required specifications, I will not accept it.)
- Minimum of 4 pages in MLA format, Works Cited page
- Properly formatted and cited quotations with parenthetical citations (see pages the OWL for help or Library)
- Prewriting, Outline, and Annotated Rough Draft (Process!)
- No use of first person (I, me, mine, etc.)
- Submit to Turnitin.com

**On peer editing day bring a copy of your typed complete rough draft.**

**Rubric and Points:**
1) Thesis, Process, Response to Prompt (20 points)
2) Organization, Support, and Content Development (20 points)
3) Style, Diction, and Voice (20 points)
4) Grammatical Soundness and Mechanics (20 points)
5) Critical, Analytic, and Evaluative Elements (20 points)