

11th Grade Summer Reading Assignment:

Book: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Analytical Essay (Formal Writing – 2 to 3 pages,)

Choose ONE prompt:

Option A: The American Dream

Fitzgerald presents a complex critique of the American Dream in *The Great Gatsby*. Write an essay analyzing how the novel both presents and challenges this idea. Consider Gatsby's rise, his goals, and his ultimate downfall.

Option B: Illusion vs. Reality

Many characters in the novel live in a world shaped by illusion rather than truth. Write an essay explaining how Fitzgerald uses characters and events to show the consequences of living in illusion.

Option C: Social Class and Moral Decay

Analyze how wealth and social class influence morality and behavior in the novel. Consider how East Egg, West Egg, and the Valley of Ashes represent different values and lifestyles.

Essay Requirements

Your essay must include:

- A clear, arguable thesis statement
- At least 4 body paragraphs
- At least 4 direct quotes from the novel
- Strong analysis explaining how evidence supports your argument
- Formal academic tone (no first-person unless necessary)

Essay Rubric

	3	2	1
Organization	A proper flow of an introduction, body, and conclusion in your essay	Somewhat of an introduction, body, and conclusion in your essay	No flow and/or no introduction, body, or conclusion in your essay.
Spelling and Grammar	No mistakes in spelling and grammar	Some mistakes in spelling and grammar	A lot of mistakes in spelling and grammar
Vocabulary	Used a lot of vocabulary words that you learned from the book	Used some vocabulary words that you learned in class or from the book	Used little to no vocabulary words that you learned from the book
Usage of Text	Was able to find proper examples from the book and reference and relate them to their points	Used an example from the book but didn't completely succeed at relating it to the point / Wasn't able to properly reference the example.	Used little to no examples from the book or used an example but it did not fit what the essay prompt was asking you to look for