

The American Dream: Discussion

If you have to comment on one of these questions, you should first give 'your' definition of the American dream. (You already know that there is no unitary definition, so your readers/listeners need to know what exactly you are applying to.) To what conclusion you come in the end is a matter of your own political views—there is no right or wrong here. It's always good, however, if you try to understand both sides. The following thoughts might be useful when talking/writing about the American dream:

- Do all US citizens have equal opportunities or are there still conflicts concerning the origin or beliefs of certain groups?
- If we say that everyone can become rich if they work hard enough—does that mean that the poor are only too lazy? (Or do we have to take other factors into account, too?)
- Why does it have to be the “American dream”? Wouldn't the same dream be possible in other countries?
- What makes so many people want to live in the United States?
- If you had the choice, how would you decide: take the opportunity to become rich and successful thanks to low taxes or pay higher taxes from which the jobless can benefit (you might be jobless as well one day, but not necessarily)?
- What are the advantages / disadvantages (for the individual and society) if people only try to pursue their very own dreams?

Possible answers:

The American Dream focuses on the success of the individual (not the well-being of the whole population). On the one hand, this has advantages, e.g. lower taxes, little interference of the state. On the other hand, the same advantages are disadvantageous for society: there is no social fund for the poor and there is no serious interest in important issues like environmental protection etc.