

The American Dream: Deal, Alive, or on Hold?

Seelye, K. (2009, May 7). What happens to the American Dream in a recession? *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Thomas, C. (2010, November 23). Is the American Dream over? *Townhall*. Retrieved from http://townhall.com/columnists/CalThomas/2010/11/23/is_the_american_dream_over

Joining the Conversation

1. How does Brandon King redefine the American Dream? How does the redefinition affect his argument?
2. Summarize King's argument in this essay. What reasons and evidence does he use to support his views? How persuasive do you find his argument?
3. How does King connect the various parts of his essay? Look in particular at the beginnings and endings of paragraphs. What sorts of transitions and other connecting devices does King use? If you find places where he needs a transition or other device, supply it and explain why you think it improves the essay.
4. How well does King introduce and explain Paul Krugman's views on inequality and taxation? How thoroughly does he respond?
5. Write an essay responding to King's argument about the American Dream from your own perspective—as a student, as a worker, or both.