

CONTENT

1. America: From British colony to superpower.
<https://worldsofenglish.systime.dk/?id=99>
2. "From Rags to Riches" in Catherine Brejnholt, m.fl. *Fed engelsk*, Systime.
<https://fedengelsk.systime.dk/index.php?id=132>
3. Emma Lazarus, "New Colossus", 1883
4. Maya Angelou, "New Directions" in Jorunn Berntzen m. fl., *Targets – Coursebook*, Gyldendal, 2001, pp. 215-216
5. Barack Obama, "This is your victory" (excerpt), 2008.
<http://edition.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/11/04/obama.transcript/>
6. Arnold Schwarzenegger, "Arnold Schwarzenegger Recalls Lessons From 25 Years as a U.S. Citizen—Learn English, Participate in Politics, and Give Back" in *U.S. News & World Report*, September 18, 2008.
<http://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2008/09/17/arnold-schwarzenegger-recalls-lessons-from-25-years-as-a-us-citizen--learn-english-participate-in-politics-and-give-back>
7. Kelli Kennedy, "Parkland activists heal over years while pushing gun reform", 2021.
<https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/parkland-activists-heal-years-pushing-gun-reform-81148919>
8. Elizabeth Broadbend, "A Mother's White Privilege".
<https://blackvoices.ibog.gyldendal.dk/?id=177>
9. Darren Lyn, "4 years after George Floyd's murder, police brutality against Blacks in US remains societal problem". 2024. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/4-years-after-george-floyd-s-murder-police-brutality-against-blacks-in-us-remains-societal-problem/3230586#>
10. An assortment of Trump's tweets <https://worldsofenglish.systime.dk/?id=277>
11. Jason Field, A Journalist's Apology—Only to Be Read if Donald Trump Wins the Presidency. <https://www.newsweek.com/journalists-apologyonly-read-if-donald-trump-wins-presidency-opinion-1979434>
12. Ashton Jackson, "Getting rich isn't the American Dream anymore, says new survey—here's how people define success instead", July 2023. *CNBC*.
<https://www.cnn.com/2023/07/03/belonging-happiness-comfort-are-new-american-dream-godaddy-survey.html>

America: From British colony to superpower

It was neither Columbus in 1492 nor Amerigo Vespucci in 1501 who made the first European discovery of the American continent. It is now a well-proven fact that Vikings from Scandinavia settled in North America around 1021. The indigenous peoples, however, had already crossed over to Alaska from Siberia around 17,000 years ago.

- 5 The first successful English settlement in North America was established in 1607. This colony was soon followed by 12 others, taking their names from English kings and places with a twist, like Jamestown, Charleston, New York, New Jersey along with Native American names like Delaware and Massachusetts.

- 10 Europeans – and Asians – immigrated to America in great numbers over the next hundreds of years. Pilgrims wanted to escape from religious persecution in the Old World, explorers found their adventures as frontiersmen, fur trappers made their trade, carpenters and workers built cities and railroads and farmers took 'new' land under plow. Others were brought involuntarily to America as enslaved people from Africa. The largest number of immigrants came to America in 1870-1900 from Britain, 15 Ireland and Scandinavia, fleeing from starvation and poverty in search of new opportunities and a fresh start.

- It was the question of slavery, and the differences between the more industrialized northern states and the southern states with an economy based on farming, which brought the country into a Civil War from 1861 to 1865. Under President Abraham 20 Lincoln (1809-1865), the country remained united in spite of great differences. To this day, issues of race are still present not only for Blacks, but also newer immigration waves from Latin America, South America and Asia.

Depending on your approach, America could be called a nation of settlers, a nation of immigrants, a multicultural society, or a melting pot.

- 25 Hawaii joined the United States in 1959 as the last of the 50 states. By then, America was a booming superpower that had won the Second World War (1939-45) and whose music, lifestyle, consumer goods and culture united at least the western part of the world.

- 30 In the wake of World War II, an ideological and geopolitical struggle for allies and power between the USA and the Soviet Union turned into the Cold War. During the period from 1947 to 1989, the world experienced an escalation of space and (nuclear) arms races, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Vietnam War and many other battles.

From rags to riches

Lead in: From rags to riches

Historian James Adams came up with the term the American Dream in 1931, and he described it as follows: "that American dream of a better, richer, and happier life for all our citizens of every rank." But the concept behind the American Dream has existed for much longer.

PRE-READING: FROM RAGS TO RICHES

Read the following text and discuss the questions with the person next to you after each section of the text.

Text: From rags to riches **

10 When Michael Oher was 16 he was poor, he couldn't read or write, his father was dead and his mother was addicted to crack cocaine. Today he is one of American Football's biggest stars with a five-year contract worth \$14 million and his life story has been made into an Oscar-winning movie called "The Blind Side". He is living the American Dream.

15 So what is the American Dream and what makes it American? Nobody talks about the Danish Dream or the German Dream. And why do we love to hear stories about the American Dream?

20 Maybe you have read a story or seen a movie about someone who is very poor and unhappy at the beginning of the story and goes through hell, but then one day decides to change his or her destiny and then becomes rich and lives happily ever after. That is the American Dream! To come from nothing and get everything you ever wanted and, of course, to get the opportunity to earn enough money to buy everything you ever wanted.

25 But there is not only one American Dream and there is no simple recipe for achieving the American Dream. It is more a sort of motto for Americans and it means that in the United States anything is possible if you want it badly enough. All you have to do is work hard at it. It is as simple as that.

30 For some the American Dream is to become a movie star or a famous hip-hop artist, for others it is gaining respect in a certain field like science or literature. But the American dream can also be the dream of having a nice job, a loving family and owning your own home. That is the thing about dreams – they are different from person to person.

QUESTION

35 1. How does Michael Oher's story show the idea of the American Dream? What challenges did he face to reach success?

2. The American Dream can mean different things to different people. What are some examples of the American Dream, and how can it inspire people?

The American Dream through the eyes of Hollywood

5

One of Hollywood's favourite movie themes is the true story of someone who is living the American Dream. The audience loves to see them, as they can relate to the story, the movies earn a lot of money and somehow the actors in these movies almost always end up getting nominated for an Oscar or actually winning an Oscar, which fulfils their dream.

10

We see the American Dream portrayed in the movie "Erin Brockovich" from 2000. Erin Brockovich was an unemployed single mom of three who started and won a case against the Pacific Gas and Electric Company and now she has her own consultancy company for environmental issues. Julia Roberts played Erin Brockovich in the movie and won an Oscar for her performance.

15

Another popular movie about the American Dream is the movie called "The Pursuit of Happyness", in which Chris Gardner, the single dad of a toddler, lives on the streets with his son for two years to become a stockbroker so he can provide a better life for his son. Will Smith played the part of Chris Gardner and Will's son Jayden played the part of his son. Will was nominated for an Oscar for his role.

20

Football star Michael Oher's life is portrayed in the movie "The Blind Side", in which Sandra Bullock plays his adoptive mom. She also won an Oscar for her performance.

25

All three movies were big box office hits and each grossed over \$250 million worldwide.



QUESTION

1. Why do you think audiences are so drawn to movies about the American Dream? How might these stories inspire or impact viewers?

2. Each of these movies shows different versions of the American Dream. How are the dreams in "Erin Brockovich," "The Pursuit of

Happyness," and "The Blind Side" similar or different?

40

A little bit of history

Now back to the question of why it is called the *American* Dream. We have to go a long way back in history, because the thought behind the American Dream stems from the "Declaration of Independence". In 1776 the United States did not consist of the 50 states we know today, but of thirteen American colonies under the British Empire. However, the thirteen American colonies did not want to be part of the British Empire anymore and they declared themselves independent from the British Empire by writing the "Declaration of Independence". The Declaration was approved by the representatives from the thirteen colonies at the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, which is called the birthday of the United States. Maybe you have heard about all the celebrations in the United States on 4th of July where they have barbeques and fireworks.

The "Declaration of Independence" consists of a number of legal and natural rights, including a statement of human rights:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are, Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

It means that all men have the right to live, the right to freedom and the right to pursue happiness and they cannot lose that right. The right to pursue happiness is the cornerstone of the American Dream. Unfortunately, it really did mean all *men*. When the Declaration was written it only applied to all white men; women, Native Americans and African Americans were not given the same rights until many years later.

The Declaration of Independence
Laura Young/iStockphoto.com

QUESTION

1. How does the phrase "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" connect to the idea of the American Dream? Why do you think this idea became so important in American culture?

2. When the Declaration of Independence was written, not everyone had equal rights. How might this history affect the way people think about the American Dream today



Migration to the new world

After the "Declaration of Independence" was signed, people from all over the world began to emigrate to the United States to pursue their American Dream. From 1850 to 1930 there were so many people moving from Europe and Asia to the United States that the foreign born population of the United States increased from 2.2 million to 14.2 million. America was truly a new world, a place where you could start over and make your own life and pursue your own happiness. For many people it was a way out of poverty and oppression caused by class hierarchy into a better world where everything was possible. You just had to have a good head and strong will to make it.

QUESTION

Why do you think so many people from around the world were drawn to the United States to pursue the American Dream, and what were they hoping to achieve by starting a new life there?

"I have a dream"

Over the years the African Americans began to fight against the discrimination of black people. They dreamt that all men and women, irrespective of colour, would be equal. Rosa Parks was an African American civil rights activist and great icon for the African Americans. She was arrested in 1955 when she would not give up her seat on the bus to a white man. At that time coloured people had to sit at the back of the bus and give up their seats to white people if there were no seats left. After her arrest the African American community boycotted the bus companies until the law was changed so that black people could sit anywhere in the bus. One of the leaders of the boycott was Martin Luther King, Jr. – and he had a dream! You might know it ...

"I have a dream" is one of the best-known speeches from the United States. Martin Luther King delivered this 17-minute speech in front of 200,000 people in 1963 during the *March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom*. Martin Luther King, Jr. said:

And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.*

King's speech helped put civil rights at the very top of the political agenda in the United States.

QUESTION

1. How did Rosa Parks' actions and the bus boycott help change laws and promote equality? What impact did this have on the civil rights movement?

2. Martin Luther King, Jr. said his dream was "deeply rooted in the American Dream." What do you think he meant by this, and how did his dream expand the idea of the American Dream?

5 VOCABULARY: FROM RAGS TO RICHES

Give a short explanation of the words in the box and then translate the words into Danish.

The English word	The English explanation	The Danish word
A destiny		
A recipe		
A motto		
To relate to something		
An Oscar		
A toddler		
To gross		
To stem		
To be independent		
Congress		
Human rights		
To pursue something		
To emigrate		
Oppression		
Class hierarchy		
An activist		
Civil rights		
To be rooted in		

TEXT COMPREHENSION: FROM RAGS TO RICHES

Answer the following questions using your own words:

1. How do movies about the American Dream shape our ideas of success, and how might Hollywood's version be different from real life?
- 5 2. Why was the idea of "pursuing happiness" in the Declaration of Independence so new and important, and how has it affected American culture?
3. Many immigrants came to America in the 1800s and 1900s because of the American Dream. What problems in their home countries might have led them to move, and were their dreams realistic?
- 10 4. Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr. took big risks to fight discrimination. How did their actions inspire other Americans facing unfair treatment?
5. How did the civil rights movement change the meaning of the American Dream, especially for people who had been left out of it before?
- 15 6. What does the term "from rags to riches" mean?

DISCUSSION: DO YOU HAVE AN AMERICAN DREAM?

Discuss the following with a partner and write down your arguments in a mindmap:

- Give your views on the American Dream.
- Would you like to go to the United States and seek the American Dream?
- 20 → Give reasons for your answers.

INTERVIEW: HOW MANY DREAMS CAN YOU CAPTURE?

You're going to find out what your fellow students dream of:

- Everybody stands up.
- 25 → Set a timer for ten minutes.
- Each student now has 10 minutes to walk around and ask his or her fellow students the question: "What is your dream?"
- Remember to write the answer down.
- The one who has got the most answers when time is up is the winner.
- 30 → The winner then reads his or her answers to the class.

"The New Colossus" was engraved on a bronze plaque at the Statue of Liberty. The poem is a sonnet: a classical poetic form which has 14 lines, subdivided through its rhymes into two parts: I = 8 lines, an octave, rhyming abbaabba, and II = 6 lines, a sestet, rhyming cdcddc (or cdecde). This is the Petrarchan or Italian sonnet; Shakespeare created his own version which has slightly different end rhymes. The meter is an iambic pentameter (da-DUM da-DUM da-DUM da-DUM da-DUM).

1. The 'old' Colossus: *Find information about the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and the Colossus of Rhodes*. Be ready to share your findings in class.

The New Colossus

By Emma Lazarus

5 Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
10 Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows worldwide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
“Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she
15 With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost
to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

20

New Directions

By Maya Angelou

5 In 1903 the late Mrs. Annie Johnson of Arkansas found herself with two toddling sons, very little money, a slight ability to read and add simple numbers. To this picture add a disastrous marriage and the burdensome fact that Mrs. Johnson was a Negro.

10 When she told her husband, Mr. William Johnson, of her dissatisfaction with their marriage, he conceded that he too found it to be less than he expected, and had been secretly hoping to leave and study religion. He added that he thought God was calling him not only to preach but to do so in Enid, Oklahoma. He did not tell her that he knew a minister in Enid with whom he could study and who had a friendly, unmarried daughter. They parted amicably, Annie keeping the one-room house and William taking most of the cash to carry himself to Oklahoma.

15 Annie, over six feet tall, big-boned, decided that she would not go to work as a domestic and leave her "precious babes" to anyone else's care. There was no possibility of being hired at the town's cotton gin or lumber mill, but maybe there was a way to make the two factories work for her. In her words, "I looked up the road I was going and back the way I come, and since I wasn't satisfied, I decided to step off the road and cut me a new path." She told herself
20 that she wasn't a fancy cook but that she could "mix groceries well enough to scare hungry away and keep from starving a man."

25 She made her plans meticulously and in secret. One early evening to see if she was ready, she placed stones in two five-gallon pails and carried them three miles to the cotton gin. She rested a little, and then, discarding some rocks, she walked in the darkness to the sawmill five miles farther along the dirt road. On her way back to her little house and her babies, she dumped the remaining rocks along the path.

30 That same night she worked into the early hours boiling chicken and frying ham. She made dough and filled the rolled out pastry with meat. At last she went to sleep.

35 The next morning she left her house carrying the meat pies, lard, an iron brazier, and coals for a fire. Just before lunch she appeared in an empty lot behind the cotton gin. As the dinner noon bell rang, she dropped the saviors into boiling fat and the aroma rose and floated over to the workers who spilled out of the gin, covered with white lint, looking like specters.

40 Most workers had brought their lunches of pinto beans and biscuits or crackers, onions and cans of sardines, but they were tempted by the hot meat pies which Annie ladled out of the fat. She wrapped them in newspapers, which soaked up the grease, and offered them for sale at a nickel each. Although business was slow, those first days Annie was determined. She balanced her appearances between the two hours of activity.

So, on Monday if she offered hot fresh pies at the cotton gin and sold the remaining cooled-down pies at the lumber mill for three cents, then on Tuesday she went first to the lumber mill presenting fresh, just-cooked pies as the lumbermen covered in sawdust emerged from the mill.

5

For the next few years, on balmy spring days, blistering summer noons, and cold, wet, and wintry middays, Annie never disappointed her customers, who could count on seeing the tall, brown-skin woman bent over her brazier, carefully turning the meat pies. When she felt certain that the workers had become dependent on her, she built a stall between the two hives of industry and let the men run to her for their lunchtime provisions.

10

She had indeed stepped from the road which seemed to have been chosen for her and cut herself a brand-new path. In years that stall became a store where customers could buy cheese, meal, syrup, cookies, candy, writing tablets, pickles, canned goods, fresh fruit, soft drinks, coal, oil, and leather soles for worn-out shoes.

15

Each of us has the right and the responsibility to assess the roads which lie ahead, and those over which we have traveled, and if the future road looms ominous or unpromising, and the roads back uninviting, then we need to gather our resolve and, carrying only the necessary baggage, step off that road into another direction. If the new choice is also unpalatable, without embarrassment, we must be ready to change that as well.

20

25

30

35



Transcript: 'This is your victory,' says Obama (excerpt)

November 4th, 2008

CHICAGO, Illinois (CNN) -- Sen. Barack Obama spoke at a rally in Grant Park in Chicago, Illinois, after winning the race for the White House Tuesday night. The following is an exact transcript of his speech.

Hello, Chicago.

If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible, who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time, who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer.

It's the answer told by lines that stretched around schools and churches in numbers this nation has never seen, by people who waited three hours and four hours, many for the first time in their lives, because they believed that this time must be different, that their voices could be that difference.

It's the answer spoken by young and old, rich and poor, Democrat and Republican, black, white, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, gay, straight, disabled and not disabled. Americans who sent a message to the world that we have never been just a collection of individuals or a collection of red states and blue states.

We are, and always will be, the United States of America.

It's the answer that led those who've been told for so long by so many to be cynical and fearful and doubtful about what we can achieve to put their hands on the arc of history and bend it once more toward the hope of a better day.

It's been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did on this date in this election at this defining moment change has come to America.

...

To the best campaign team ever assembled in the history of politics you made this happen, and I am forever grateful for what you've sacrificed to get it done.

But above all, I will never forget who this victory truly belongs to. It belongs to you. It belongs to you.

I was never the likeliest candidate for this office. We didn't start with much money or many endorsements. Our campaign was not hatched in the halls of Washington. It began in the backyards of Des Moines and the living rooms of Concord and the front porches of Charleston. It was built by working men and women who dug into what little savings they had to give \$5 and \$10 and \$20 to the cause.

It [d]rew strength from the young people who rejected the myth of their generation's apathy who left their homes and their families for jobs that offered little pay and less sleep.

It drew strength from the not-so-young people who braved the bitter cold and scorching heat to knock on doors of perfect strangers, and from the millions of Americans who volunteered and organized and proved that more than two centuries later a government of the people, by the people, and for the people has not perished from the Earth.

This is your victory.

And I know you didn't do this just to win an election. And I know you didn't do it for me.

...

In this country, we rise or fall as one nation, as one people. Let's resist the temptation to fall back on the same partisanship and pettiness and immaturity that has poisoned our politics for so long.

Let's remember that it was a man from this state who first carried the banner of the Republican Party to the White House, a party founded on the values of self-reliance and individual liberty and national unity.

Those are values that we all share. And while the Democratic Party has won a great victory tonight, we do so with a measure of humility and determination to heal the divides that have held back our progress.

As Lincoln said to a nation far more divided than ours, we are not enemies but friends. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection.

And to those Americans whose support I have yet to earn, I may not have won your vote tonight, but I hear your voices. I need your help. And I will be your president, too.

Tonight we proved once more that the true strength of our nation comes not from the might of our arms or the scale of our wealth, but from the enduring power of our ideals: democracy, liberty, opportunity and unyielding hope.

That's the true genius of America: that America can change. Our union can be perfected. What we've already achieved gives us hope for what we can and must achieve tomorrow.

This election had many firsts and many stories that will be told for generations. But one that's on my mind tonight's about a woman who cast her ballot in Atlanta. She's a lot like the millions of others who stood in line to make their voice heard in this election except for one thing: Ann Nixon Cooper is 106 years old.

She was born just a generation past slavery; a time when there were no cars on the road or planes in the sky; when someone like her couldn't vote for two reasons -- because she was a woman and because of the color of her skin.

5 And tonight, I think about all that she's seen throughout her century in America -- the heartache and the hope; the struggle and the progress; the times we were told that we can't, and the people who pressed on with that American creed: Yes we can.

At a time when women's voices were silenced and their hopes dismissed, she lived to see them stand up and speak out and reach for the ballot. Yes we can.

10 When there was despair in the dust bowl and depression across the land, she saw a nation conquer fear itself with a New Deal, new jobs, a new sense of common purpose. Yes we can.

When the bombs fell on our harbor and tyranny threatened the world, she was there to witness a generation rise to greatness and a democracy was saved. Yes we can.

She was there for the buses in Montgomery, the hoses in Birmingham, a bridge in Selma, and a preacher from Atlanta who told a people that "We Shall Overcome." Yes we can.

15 A man touched down on the moon, a wall came down in Berlin, a world was connected by our own science and imagination.

And this year, in this election, she touched her finger to a screen, and cast her vote, because after 106 years in America, through the best of times and the darkest of hours, she knows how America can change.

20 Yes we can.

America, we have come so far. We have seen so much. But there is so much more to do. So tonight, let us ask ourselves -- if our children should live to see the next century; if my daughters should be so lucky to live as long as Ann Nixon Cooper, what change will they see? What progress will we have made?

25 This is our chance to answer that call. This is our moment.

...

Thank you. God bless you. And may God bless the United States of America.

30 <http://edition.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/11/04/obama.transcript/>

Arnold Schwarzenegger Recalls Lessons From 25 Years as a U.S. Citizen—Learn English, Participate in Politics, and Give Back

By [ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER](#) , September 17, 2008



Twenty-five years ago this week, I became a United States citizen. I will always remember Sept. 16, 1983, as one of the greatest days of my life.

Like other newcomers to this country, I came here for my shot at the American Dream. Growing up in a small village in Austria, where if I worked hard I might be fortunate enough to follow in my father's footsteps and become a policeman, I knew America was the Promised Land. It was the place to go if you wanted your dreams to come true.

15 With hard work and determination, and because the American people were so generous and welcoming, I have succeeded beyond my wildest imagination.

I understand the immigrant yearning for freedom and opportunity. But I also believe immigrants have a responsibility to America as well. It is not enough to come here and take the best this nation has to offer without giving something back. To truly succeed as an American citizen, you have to do more.

25 First, learn the English language and blend into the American culture, even as you honor and remain proud of your own heritage. I don't say learn the language out of any sense of etiquette or duty. Do it so you can participate fully in the life of the nation and make the most of living in this country.

I came here in 1968 speaking only a little English. To make it in business and Hollywood, I knew I had to take English lessons, speech lessons, accent-removal lessons—anything to improve my chances of success. And I happily did it all.

30 Second, participate in the political process. In Austria, I was surrounded by countries like Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia where citizens did not have the right to vote. So I have always been keenly aware that this right should not be taken for granted. But too many Americans do.

35 Democracy is not a spectator sport. To keep it strong and to effect real change, you have to be involved. Learn about some of the sacrifices Americans have made over the years to build and preserve the greatest democracy in history. Hundreds of thousands of Americans have died defending freedom. If you visit just one Civil War battlefield or learn about World War II, it's hard to take for granted the right to vote.

Finally, give something back. Many immigrants come from cultures where service is not stressed. I was no different. In fact, it was not until I met my wife, Maria, and her parents, Sargent and Eunice Kennedy Shriver, that I discovered the true value of service.

5 They started so many programs that helped millions of people, from Special Olympics to the Peace Corps, Job Corps, and Head Start. Before I knew it, I was spending time with kids from the Special Olympics. That made me feel so good, I was soon working in after-school programs to give kids safe choices when the bell rang at the end of the day. I became chairman of the
10 President's Council on Fitness and Sports and traveled around the nation talking to students about staying healthy by exercising and eating right.

I had the ultimate opportunity to give something back to California when I was elected governor in 2003. To promote service around our state and nation, I created the first cabinet-level position for service and
15 volunteering, calling on the next president and other governors to do the same.

There are so many great immigrants who have performed outstanding public service for this nation that I could fill this entire column with a list of their names. Madeleine Albright and Henry Kissinger became great
20 secretaries of state. Andrew Grove built Intel into a high-tech powerhouse. Max Frankel moved to America from Germany and went on to run the *New York Times*. Albert Einstein also came here from Germany. The list goes on and on.

These were immigrants who came here for the American Dream, but they were
25 not looking for handouts. They did not ask only what they could get from their new country. They also asked what they could give to it.

Not everyone can become Albert Einstein, but as Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Anybody can be great, because anybody can serve."

Pitch in a few hours every week at a soup kitchen, clean up a local park or riverbed, mentor a child, or coach a youth sports team. Give something
30 back, and not only will you lift up others, but you will lift yourself up, too. When you do these things, you will learn what I learned when I became a citizen: Once you're in, other than being able to run for president, you have all the same rights as descendants of those who came here on the
35 Mayflower.

There is no second-tier citizenship. You are an American, period. With hard work, learning English, and getting involved, there is no limit on what you can achieve.

40 Arnold Schwarzenegger. "Arnold Arnold Schwarzenegger Recalls Lessons From 25 Years as a U.S. Citizen—Learn English, Participate in Politics, and Give Back". *U.S. News & World Report* website 18 September 2008. Viewed May 2012. URL:
<http://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2008/09/17/arnold-schwarzenegger-recalls-lessons-from-25-years-as-a-us-citizen--learn-english-participate-in-politics-and-give-back>

Parkland activists heal over years while pushing gun reform

The recent guilty plea by the shooter in the 2018 Parkland school slayings drew some renewed attention to the anti-gun March for Our Lives student movement

5 By **KELLI KENNEDY Associated Press**, 13 November 2021, 16:46



FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. -- When the shooter in the 2018 Parkland school massacre finally pleaded guilty last month, it briefly revived attention and donations for the anti-gun violence March For Our Lives student movement birthed by the tragedy. It also dredged up personal trauma for

many of young activists, though most are now hundreds of miles away at college.

Jaclyn Corin, 21, one of the group's original organizers and now a Harvard junior, stayed off social media the week of the shooter's court proceedings to avoid painful memories. But well-intentioned loved ones texted constantly to provide support, unwittingly making it impossible for her to ignore.

"I try my best not to think about him and the violence that he inflicted, but it's incredibly hard to do that when someone who ruined your life and the lives of literally everyone in your community is trending on social media."

In the initial months after the shooting that killed 17 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the teenagers amassed one of the largest youth protests in history in Washington and rallied more than a million activists in sister marches from California to Japan. They made the cover of Time magazine and raised millions to fund March For Our Lives. They testified before Congress, met with the president, won the International Children's Peace Prize and launched a 60-plus city bus tour to register tens of thousands of young voters.

March For Our Lives has evolved into a 300-chapter organization that has had a hand in helping pass many of the 130 gun violence prevention bills approved across the country since 2018 and regularly files amicus briefs in gun-related lawsuits.

Yet some of the original founders, including Emma Gonzalez, have left or taken a step back — or moved on to other issues. One of them is running for Congress in Florida. Corin was so burned out from activism when she started college that she said she needed a year for herself. “A lot of our trauma from the shooting is inherently linked to the organization,” she said.

Nearly four years after the shootings, the twenty-somethings have managed to keep the organization going and youth-led. Still, they’ve struggled to achieve sustainable financing. The organization has raised over \$31 million to date, but its operating costs were slightly higher than funds in 2020.

David Hogg, one of the most recognizable faces from the group and still one of its most active members, said the organization is much more stable now than in the early days “When you get a bunch of traumatized teenagers together and say, ‘It’s up to you to fix this,’ ... the weight that puts on a 17-year-old mind or a 14-year-old mind like my sister’s after she lost four friends that day is enormous.”

Hogg, also a student at Harvard, delayed college for a year to help grow the organization. He was in Washington last week for a Supreme Court case about the right to carry a firearm in public for self-defense where the organization filed an amicus brief supporting a restrictive New York state law.

“There are days when I want to stop. There are days when I am exhausted. But there are days when I realize I am not alone in this work,” Hogg said in a recent interview.

Hogg, who has drawn persistent scorn from conservatives including Georgia’s Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene and Fox News personality Laura Ingraham, said March For Our Lives is focused on the long game. It hopes to spur youth nationally to run for office, become judges and draft policies.

Volunteers in the organization made over 1 million texts and phone calls leading up to the 2020 election. Maxwell Frost, one of the group's founders and its former organizing director, is running for an open congressional seat from Orlando. Another founding member, Charlie Mirsky, took a year off to work full time as the organization's policy director before before
5 enrolling at Lafayette College. Last summer, he helped the organization form a judicial advocacy branch to write amicus briefs.

While gun control remains the group's chief mission, the students said they consider issues like racism, poverty and voter disenfranchisement to be intertwined and have focused extra efforts on communities of color affected by gun violence. Many of the students rallied for
10 Black Lives Matters last summer in the wake of the George Floyd protests, including Aalayah Eastmond. Eastmond, now a junior at Trinity Washington University, was in her Holocaust history class when the gunman killed several students inside. The now 20-year-old took part in March For Our Lives' bus tour, though she is not a formal member of the group.

"I wanted to make sure we were addressing inner city gun violence that disproportionately
15 impacts Black and brown youth," Eastmond said. "I felt like that was a huge part of the conversation that is overlooked."

And now, as a jury will decide in January whether the Parkland school shooter will spend life in prison or receive the death penalty, the student activists find themselves grappling yet again with the human toll of gun violence. The organization does not have a formal position,
20 but the students said they support whatever the victims' families want.

"I think it's a really difficult scenario," Corin said. "I struggle with the morality of the death penalty often, but I do know that it could give victims' families peace, specifically in this case where we know the person is guilty."

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/parkland-activists-heal-years-pushing-gun-reform-81148919>

Elizabeth Broadbent: A Mother's White Privilege, 2014. Blog

Elizabeth Broadbent (b. 1981) is a Ph.D. dropout and a female blogger, who is the mother of three boys. Her blogs mostly revolve around parenting as well as social issues like race and class. Her work can be found at her web page Manic Pixie Dream Mama, Time Magazine Ideas, Scary Mommy, Mamapedia, YourTango, and more. She writes a regular column for ADDitude magazine.

In the following blog post Elizabeth Broadbent addresses the shootings in Ferguson, Missouri and reflects upon its connection to her own position as a mother of boys.

A MOTHER'S WHITE PRIVILEGE

5 As the ongoing events in Ferguson, Missouri show us, America's racial tensions didn't disappear when George Wallace backed down from the schoolhouse door. Dr. King didn't wave a magic wand, and we never got together to feel all right. White America remembers this at ugly flashpoints: the Rodney King beatings, the OJ Simpson trial, the Jena Six, Trayvon Martin's death. White America recoils in horror not at the crimes -- though the crimes are certainly horrible. It's not the teenagers gunned down, the police abuse, the corrupt trials. It's this: at these sudden, raw moments, 10 in these riots and demonstrations and travesties of justice, White America is forced to gaze upon the emotional roil of oppression, the anger and fear and deep grief endemic to the black American experience. Black America holds up a mirror for us.

And white America is terrified to look.

15 To admit white privilege is to admit a stake, however small, in ongoing injustice. It's to see a world different than your previous perception. Acknowledging that your own group enjoys social and economic benefits of systemic racism is frightening and uncomfortable. It leads to hard questions of conscience many of us aren't prepared to face. There is substantial anger: at oneself, at the systems of oppression, and mostly at the bearer of bad news, a convenient target of displacement. But think on 20 this.

I have three sons, two years between each. They are various shades of blond, various shades of pinkish-white, and will probably end up dressing in polo shirts and button downs most of the time. Their eyes are blue and green. Basically, I'm raising the physical embodiment of The Man, times three. The White is strong in these ones.

25 Clerks do not follow my sons around the store, presuming they might steal something.

Their normal kid stuff -- tantrums, running, shouting -- these are chalked up to being children, not to being non-white.

People do not assume that, with three children, I am scheming to cheat the welfare system.

When I wrap them on my back, no one thinks I'm going native, or that I must be from somewhere else.

When my sons are teenagers, I will not worry about them leaving the house. I will worry – that they'll crash the car, or impregnate a girl, or engage in the same stupidity endemic to teenagers everywhere.

5 I will not worry that the police will shoot them.

If their car breaks down, I will not worry that people they ask for help will call the police, who will shoot them.

I will not worry that people will mistake a toy pistol for a real one and gun them down in the local Walmart.

10 In fact, if my sons so desire, they will be able to carry firearms openly. Perhaps in Chipotle or Target.

They will walk together, all three, through our suburban neighborhood. People will think, *Look at those kids out for a walk*. They will not think, *Look at those punks casing the joint*.

15 People will assume they are intelligent. No one will say they are "well-spoken" when they break out SAT words. Women will not cross the street when they see them. Nor will they clutch their purses tighter.

My sons will never be mistaken for stealing their own cars, or entering their own houses.

No one will stop and frisk my boys because they look suspicious.

My boys can grow their hair long, and no one will assume it's a political statement.

20 My boys will carry a burden of privilege with them always. They will be golden boys, inoculated by a lack of melanin and all its social trapping against the problems faced by black America.

For a mother, white privilege means your heart doesn't hit your throat when your kids walk out the door. It means you don't worry that the cops will shoot your sons.

25 It carries another burden instead. White privilege means that if you don't school your sons about it, if you don't insist on its reality and call out oppression, your sons may become something terrifying. Your sons may become the shooters.

(Source: <https://blackvoices.ibog.gyldendal.dk/?id=177> (2,4ns))

TIMELINE - <https://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/embed/1854985/5724744062/>

This timeline shows an overview of police shootings with deadly outcome for unarmed, African Americans from 2012-2022. Only cases that gained national attention have been included.

5 In 2012, 17-year-old Trayvon Martin was shot and killed by George Zimmerman, a private security guard. Zimmerman was charged, but eventually acquitted for murder and protests sprang up across the US and on social media under the hashtag #blacklivesmatter. The protests grew into a nationwide Black Lives Matter movement forcing Americans' attention to racism in policing and generally. Hereafter, the Black Lives Matter movement was founded giving the protesters a combined voice and arranging large protest marches in many American cities.
10 Since then, tens of thousands of Black Lives Matter activists and protesters have gathered many times to object and create awareness about African Americans being unjustifiably maltreated and murdered by mainly white police officers.

15 According to a 2021 survey from Pew Research Center, trust in the police in America has changed within recent years. White adults are more likely than African-American or Hispanic adults to have confidence in the police. 32% of white adults state that they have a great deal of confidence in the police whereas only 10% of African Americans say the same. When asked whether someone has ever been unfairly stopped by the police, 45% of African-American adults (65% of African-American males) answered that this has happened to them. Only 9% of white adults said the same.

20 TASK: Watch the survey video here
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jj9vD7cKUhE&embeds_referring_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fblackvoices.systime.dk%2F

In pairs/small groups, discuss the following questions after looking into the timeline:

- 25
1. What do the cases have in common?
 2. Why were the people in these cases shot?
 3. What impression(s) do these cases give of the American police?

30

4 years after George Floyd's murder, police brutality against Blacks in US remains societal problem

'I don't know that the United States has addressed ... anti-blackness that has supported systematic violence against Black people,' says Rice University professor

Darren Lyn | 26.05.2024 - Update : 27.05.2024



HOUSTON, United States

The death of George Floyd, a black man, in 2020 at the hands of four police officers in the state of Minnesota still resonates as a major societal problem in America: police brutality against Blacks.

"I don't know that the United States has addressed in significant ways anti-blackness that has supported systematic violence against Black people," said Anthony Pinn, a professor of humanities at Rice University in Houston, Texas.

15 It was May 25, 2020, when former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on Floyd's neck for nearly 10 minutes as Floyd cried out, "I can't breathe," until he died, as three fellow officers watched and did nothing to intervene.

20 Floyd's death sparked outrage across the world, prompting protests about the senseless brutality against Blacks by police officers in the US.

Chauvin was convicted of murder and manslaughter and is serving a 22 1/2-year state sentence which is being served concurrently with his 21-year federal conviction for violating Floyd's civil rights.
25 The other officers -- Thomas Lane, J. Alexander Kueng and Tou Thao -- were convicted in Floyd's death and were handed prison sentences ranging between three and four years.

30 "The conviction of those officers isn't enough because the problem isn't a matter of individuals. It's systemic and it requires changes that impact policies and practices on the collective level," Pinn told Anadolu. "The conviction of those officers is important, but

it doesn't render Black people safe on a societal level. The demand for systemic changes is still as important as ever."

Since Floyd's death, there have been other high-profile cases of police officers killing Black people: Amir Locke in Minnesota, Patrick Lyoya in Michigan and Jayland Walker in Ohio, to name a few. Protests have taken place after many of those killings, but police violence against Blacks still happens to this day.

"I believe the protests revolving around the murder of George Floyd, and others, has made us deeply aware of a long history of racial disregard and the many ways in which it is acted out," said Pinn, who acknowledged the power of protest, despite the continued killing of Black people by police. "The protest stemming from these murders, and this is really important, has also made it much more difficult to normalize or justify the abuse of racial minorities in the form of police brutality."

Pinn said the killing of Black people by police is nothing new in America. He emphasized that the violence is a racial and police issue that stems from hundreds of years of racism.

"It's important to keep in mind that race and policing are connected, for example, in that much of what we currently have in the form of policing is tied to the logic of slave patrols developed in the 1770s," said Pinn. "Life in the USA is racialized, and that physical marker of difference always impacts our interactions. It impacts how policing takes place, who is most aggressively policed, how we describe certain communities as problematic and certain people a threat."

Pinn believes the only way to change the systemic problem of racism and police brutality is to have laws that hold officers accountable for their actions, which is exactly what happened after Floyd's murder.

"I think one of the things that should be mentioned is The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act that is meant to address, on the national level, issues of racial profiling and police brutality," said Pinn about the bill that narrowly passed the House of Representatives but failed in the Senate. "However, it seems to me, a solution has to involve real attention to anti-black racism, to the ways in which people of African descent have been understood as a problem to solve. Without addressing anti-black racism, white

supremacy and white privilege, it will be difficult to develop a more humane approach to 'law and order.'"

5 Pinn is optimistic that the tides will turn and police brutality and racism will diminish as time goes on, but he said society has to acknowledge the problem head-on and not forget about the injustices that have already happened.

10 "It seems to me, in the USA, outrage over injustice and effort to make fundamental corrections is often short-lived, although the consequences of injustice are long lasting," said Pinn. "I want to believe the protest sparked by so many examples of death has forced us to think differently about the nature of our democracy."

15 Pinn believes America is aware of its national flaws and shortcomings when it comes to injustices against Blacks and that lawmakers have the ability to come up with creative strategies to make positive changes in society.

20 "I would want to connect the murder of George Floyd to systemic practices of injustice. And, in that way, I would want to target the need for more fundamental change occasioned by graphic episodes of disregard and racial injustice," said Pinn. "I would want to connect anti-black racism to other forms of violent marginalization. I would want to highlight not the unjustified murder of George Floyd in isolation, but rather look at the creative and national protest of injustice during the 21st century that highlighted the intersectionality of various forms of marginalization."

25 Floyd's death may have been four years ago, but the effect of what his tragedy shed a light on in society could still weigh heavily on affecting positive change in the years to come.

30 "Protest, if nothing else, makes it much more difficult to normalize injustice, and that troubling of our national conscience has the potential to last," said Pinn.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/4-years-after-george-floyd-s-murder-police-brutality-against-blacks-in-us-remains-societal-problem/3230586#>

An assortment of Trump's tweets

Newly elected President Trump is famous for his frequent use of tweets, tweeting several times on a daily basis. Trump's tweets are thought to have had an enormous influence on American politics. His tweets became so problematic that his account was shut down by Twitter. Now, he has a new account on X.

Below, you will find an assortment of Trump's old tweets.

Read them and answer the following questions:

- What topics did Trump tweet about, what did he express about them?
- What do they tell us about Trump as a president and as a person?
- What could be the pros and cons of Trump's use of Twitter and other social media?

Tweets

1. Mexico has taken advantage of the U.S. for long enough. Massive trade deficits & little help on the very weak border must change, NOW!
2. I explained to the President of China that a trade deal with the U.S. will be far better for them if they solve the North Korean problem!
3. North Korea is looking for trouble. If China decides to help, that would be great. If not, we will solve the problem without them! U.S.A.
4. If Obama worked as hard on straightening out our country as he has trying to protect and elect Hillary, we would all be much better off!
5. Hillary Clinton should have been prosecuted and should be in jail. Instead she is running for president in what looks like a rigged election
6. The FAKE NEWS media (failing @nytimes, @NBCNews, @ABC, @CBS, @CNN) is not my enemy, it is the enemy of the American People!
7. Ice storm rolls from Texas to Tennessee - I'm in Los Angeles and it's freezing. Global warming is a total, and very expensive, hoax!
8. Isn't it crazy, I'm worth billions of dollars, employ thousands of people, and get libeled by moron bloggers who can't afford a suit! WILD.
9. The entire WORLD is being badly hurt by the China Virus, but if you listen to the Fake News Lame Stream Media, and Big Tech, you would think that we are the only one. No, but we are the Country that developed vaccines, and years ahead of schedule!

10. I WON THE ELECTION IN A LANDSLIDE, but remember, I only think in terms of legal votes, not all of the fake voters and fraud that miraculously floated in from everywhere! What a disgrace!

5

***Find and watch a video with Donald Trump giving a speech. While watching, write down notes about the following points:

10

- Body language
- Topics he speaks about
- [Ethos](#)
- [Logos](#)
- [Pathos](#)
- [Rhetorical devices](#)

15

20

25

A Journalist's Apology—Only to Be Read if Donald Trump Wins the Presidency | Opinion

5 Published Nov 04, 2024 - By [Jason Fields](#), Newsweek Deputy Opinion Editor

I'm here this morning to declare my undying love, support, and loyalty to former (and possibly future) President [Donald Trump](#).

10 I hope he's listening and that he will forgive my earlier transgressions in the form of [columns that I have written](#) that showcase his venal nature, his weakness of mind, his lack of character, and his racist tendencies. Like Sen. [JD Vance](#) (R-OH), his own vice-presidential pick, I didn't mean it, and if I did, I have now learned better.

Where did I obtain my newfound wisdom, you ask?

It is through fear that I have reached enlightenment.

15 Dear Leader Donald Trump has made many threats against the media. He dubbed us the "enemy of the people," many years ago, during his first successful run for president.

In just the last few days he has declared that the [news must be "shaped up,"](#) and that the people covering him are "monsters," and "horrible, horrible, dishonest people."

20 I have been one of these "horrible, horrible, dishonest people." I have written what [I know to be true](#) with [regularity and with as much vigor](#) as I can muster.

It's one thing to be "horrible, horrible, and dishonest" in a republic, with the rule of law and freedom of speech and the press guaranteed. It's quite another to try to make a living through a mixture of your keyboard and your limited insight in an authoritarian system. Ask the journalists of [Turkey, Russia, China, Azerbaijan, Iran, and many, many other places](#)—if you can reach them in prison or with a Ouija board.

25 Many journalists around the world are brave people. They go to prison, not just to protect their sources—as happens occasionally in the United States—but to protect the truth itself. They are beaten, they are tortured, they are raped, they are shot, hanged, and starved. At best, they find themselves out of work and unemployable.

30 I'm not that brave, and not just because of my children. I'm just not that physically courageous. Prison scares me, the thought of torture makes my heart race. The idea of bankruptcy and hunger brings on the night sweats.

And it's not so crazy to imagine an America where these things happen to "enemies of the people" like me. It happens all the time. It happens in nice countries that slide slowly into

authoritarianism. It happens when the wrong leader comes into power for a first or second time.

During Trump's first term, freedom of the press in the United States [lurched downward](#), as did trust in media. After all, the guy at the top was putting down the very idea of the media with every second breath. When the commander-in-chief, however buffoonish he may be, keeps attacking an institution, it's bound to have an effect.

While things improved somewhat under President [Joe Biden](#), Tuesday will give an indication of where we're going next.

If Trump returns to the White House, I—and most of my friends—could be in real trouble. There is already a playbook on how to bring the press to its knees while living a "democratic" lie. Look at [Hungary and Viktor Orban](#). Certainly, the leading lights of U.S. [conservatism do](#).

Even without arresting anyone, governments are immensely powerful entities. The Federal Communications Commission regulates the internet and who has the right to do what with it. It also controls the broadcast spectrum. The Federal Trade Commission regulates the mergers that all these enormous media companies are constantly undergoing, as well as many, many other orders of business your average corporation or tycoon must conduct every day.

And that's not to mention the government contracts that mean so much to so many of the super-rich.

It's like any other protection racket. "It would be a shame, Mr. Bezos, if something were to happen to that lovely cloud services contract you're about to sign..."

Just the possibility of such a threat can have a chilling effect on little things like endorsements in presidential elections, regardless of what's [said or written](#).

In an [ever-shrinking media landscape](#), there are fewer and fewer companies—owned by even fewer people—that need to be squeezed, and most of them are harder and harder up for cash.

What are the chances these dire scenarios play out? Well, it depends on whether one can trust the word of Donald Trump. In most cases, I wouldn't. He's the man who brought the world [Trump University](#) and [manipulated the value of his businesses](#) and properties to get loans.

But somehow, when Trump vows revenge—[as he has many times](#)—I believe him. It's not just that vengeance feels good and we're likely to elect the world's largest id, it's that having fewer prying eyes benefits evil deeds. And evil deeds are what we can expect as Trump and his true-believing cronies begin to rebuild the government in their leader's corrupt image.

The sad fact is that I like to eat—even more I like to stay out of jail. So, as Winston Smith once said through George Orwell's mediation in *1984*:

"Two gin-scented tears trickled down the sides of his nose. But it was all right, everything was all right, the struggle was finished. He had won the victory over himself. He loved Donald Trump"

Jason Fields is a deputy opinion editor at Newsweek.

Getting rich isn't the American Dream anymore, says new survey—here's how people define success instead

Published Mon, Jul 3 2023•2:52 PM EDT



Ashton Jackson

@ASHTONLINNELL

SHARE



The “American Dream” has long been equated with economic achievement and wealth.

But these days, amid [high levels of inflation](#) and [nationwide consumer debt](#), getting rich feels harder to achieve than ever — leading Americans to develop a new definition of success.

5 That's according to a recent [GoDaddy survey](#), which asked more than 1,000 U.S. small-business owners to describe what achieving the American Dream entails, to them. Fifty-four percent of respondents defined it as “feeling happy in life,” and 49% said it involved “freedom to follow my passions.”

10 Fifty-six percent still cited wealth as a motivator, saying they wanted to make enough money to live “a comfortable lifestyle.” But roughly three-quarters of the respondents said their definition has changed since they were a kid.

Owning a home, historically seen as a marker of success, was only the fourth-most popular answer, at 45%.

15 “The American Dream is changing, according to small-business owners,” Fara Howard, GoDaddy’s chief marketing officer, tells CNBC Make It. “Economic conditions have resulted in homeownership being less attainable, particularly for members of Gen Z, while the pandemic and the Great Resignation have driven many to prize being their own boss and gaining more freedom, comfort and flexibility.”

20 Small-business owners are often considered a litmus test for the American Dream, as some entrepreneurs see startups as an opportunity to climb the socioeconomic ladder.

Many of today’s small-business owners are also millennials and Gen Zers — demographic groups that have become increasingly more vocal about living life on their own terms, in recent years.

25 Almost a quarter (24.7%) of millennials say they plan to rent forever, due to the “exceedingly expensive” cost of homeownership, according to recent survey data from [Apartment List](#). That figure has doubled since 2010, up from 13%.

Trends like “quiet quitting” and “[the big quit](#)” have also empowered some Americans to push for more control in their professional lives, like advocating for flexible work arrangements and more down time.

5 Despite new definitions of the American Dream, survey respondents said that lack of access to technology, education and affordable health care still stand as barriers. But 62% are “very confident” that they’ll achieve their goals within their lifetimes.

10 “American small-business owners are thinking beyond revenue and sales growth when they consider what the American Dream means to them,” Howard said in a [statement](#) last week. “Today, it’s more about feeling a sense of belonging, freedom, happiness and work-life balance.”