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| **Structure** | **Your Outline** |
| ***Paragraph 1  --  Introduction*** | |
| **Hook**  Recall a story or moment that you or Chris Gardner had to overcome an obstacle. You can start with “Imagine….” | Imagine |
| **Background** Define what the American Dream is. Summarize briefly what the movie Pursuit of Happyness AND other details from Chris Gardner’s life. |  |
| **Thesis**  Your opinion on the topic | Chris Gardner exemplifies the American Dream because he is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(characteristic). |
| ***Paragraph 2*** | |
| **Topic sentence** | (characteristic) is the key to achieving the American Dream. |
| **Evidence + Citation**  From the Movie or What’s NOT in the Movie Articles |  |
| **Commentary** Explain how the evidence connects back to the topic sentence |  |
| **Evidence + Citation**  From the Rules for Success |  |
| **Commentary**  Explain how the evidence connects back to the topic sentence |  |
| (Concluding sentence) |  |
| ***Paragraph 3  -- Conclusion*** | |
| **Conclusion topic sentence** | In conclusion, |
| **Restate main points** |  |
| **Bigger Picture**  What knowledge or advice should people come away with from having read your essay and learned about Chris Gardner’s life? |  |

*Pre-Writing Organizer*

**Prompt:** Your assignment is to write a synthesis essay in which you decide to what extent Chris Gardner exemplifies the American Dream. Be sure to include support from one other source that we have read this semester (Articles and Rules for Success).

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|  | **Exemplary-4** | **Proficient-3** | **Emerging-2** | **Incomplete-1** |
| **Ideas** | Includes a well-developed explanation of the issue, a claim, and a thesis statement | Includes an explanation of the issue, a claim, and a thesis statement | States the thesis but does not adequately explain the problem | States a vague or unclear thesis |
| Presents strong support of the central claim with relevant details and commentary | Presents support for the central claim but may not fully develop all evidence | Includes some support for the claim, but it is not developed and does not provide relevant evidence or commentary | Contains ideas that are poorly developed or not developed at all |
| Presents counterclaims and clearly refutes them with relevant reasoning and evidence | Presents and acknowledges counterclaims and offers some evidence to refute them | Describes some counterclaims, but they are vague and not clearly refuted | Provides vague or no descriptions of counterclaims and refutations |
| Concludes by summarizing the main points and providing an effective call to action | Concludes by summarizing the main points and offering a call to action | Concludes by repeating main topics and ends without a suggestion for change | Concludes without summarizing main points or suggesting change |
| **Struc- ture** | Follows a clear multi-paragraph argumentative essay structure with a logical progression of ideas | Follows a multi-paragraph argumentative structure but may not have a clearly logical progression of ideas | Demonstrates an awkward, unstructured progression of ideas | Does not follow the organization of an argumentative essay |
| Showcases central points and uses effective transitions | Develops central points and uses transitions | Spends too much time on some irrelevant details and uses few transitions | Includes some details, but the writing lacks clear direction and uses no transitions |
| **Use of Lang- uage** | Uses a formal writing style | Uses a formal writing style | Mixes informal and formal writing styles | Uses inappropriate formal style |
| Smoothly integrates credible source material into the text (with accurate citations) | Integrates credible source material into the text (with accurate citations) | Integrates some source material (citations may be missing or inaccurate) | Does not include source material citations |
| Demonstrates correct spelling and excellent command of standard English conventions | Demonstrates correct spelling and general command of standard English conventions | Includes some incorrect spelling and grammatical weaknesses that interfere with meaning | Includes several errors in spelling and grammatical weaknesses that interfere with meaning |

Sources for Evidence:

1. Pursuit of Happyness-movie
2. Chris Gardner-Rules for Success
3. Your life