

Why America Essay Assignment

Diagnostic Writing and Thinking Assignment

Here's a curious little task for you. I want you to address the following:

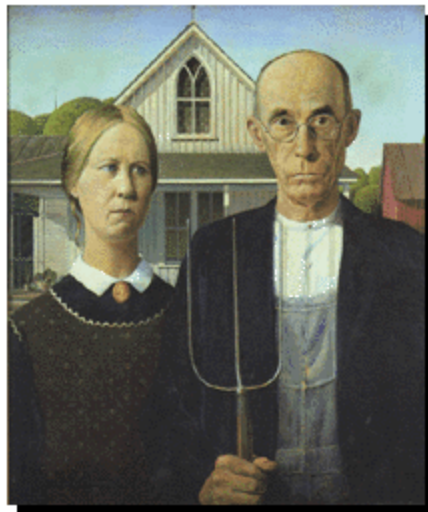
why America

Notice that I have not specified any particular type of punctuation for this, nor have I capitalized "why". Instead, you will find the freedom to explore any direction the concept leads you including inverting the word order. The result for me is a sample of your writing as well as an example of how you problem solve and handle complete freedom of your own ideas. For you, there is the chance to shake off some of those lotion stained cobwebs, be creative in your response to a teacher for once, and possibly impress your English teacher (sorry, no blue hairs here).

The only stipulations I will place on this assignment is that you make a coherent response in writing that demonstrates to me your skill as a writer. And that you incorporate at least one of the quotations provided to you on the attached handout. Don't panic, just take your thinking where it takes you.

Good luck

**(Quit worrying about length or format.
By golly just write!)**



(Farmer Students)

Quotations: Use at least one and cite it as best you know how.

"That's why they call it the American Dream, because you have to be asleep to believe it."

— George Carlin

"America is the only country that went from barbarism to decadence without civilization in between."

— Oscar Wilde

"Remember, remember always, that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionists."

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

"Half of the American people have never read a newspaper. Half never voted for President. One hopes it is the same half."

— Gore Vidal

"This is the story of America. Everybody's doing what they think they're supposed to do."

— Jack Kerouac

"America is great because she is good. If America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

— Alexis de Tocqueville

"In the unlikely story that is America, there has never been anything false about hope."

— Barack Obama

"I saw in their eyes something I was to see over and over in every part of the nation- a burning desire to go, to move, to get under way, anyplace, away from any Here. They spoke quietly of how they wanted to go someday, to move about, free and unanchored, not toward something but away from something. I saw this look and heard this yearning everywhere in every states I visited. Nearly every American hungers to move."

— John Steinbeck

"We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values. For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people."

— John F. Kennedy

"Anyone in any walk of life who is content with mediocrity is untrue to himself and to American tradition."

— George S. Patton Jr.

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." --Emma Lazarus

"The greatest Americans have not been born yet they are waiting patiently for the past to die"

— Saul Williams

"America is the greatest engine of innovation that has ever existed, and it can't be duplicated anytime soon, because it is the product of a multitude of factors: extreme freedom of thought, an emphasis on independent thinking, a steady immigration of new minds, a risk-taking culture with no stigma attached to trying and failing, a noncorrupt bureaucracy, and financial markets and a venture capital system that are unrivaled at taking new ideas and turning them into global products."

— Thomas L. Friedman

"My country is the world, and my religion is to do good."

— Thomas Paine