

Ava Brocchini

Catherine Mintler

EXPO 1213-002

14 February 2025

Cover Letter

Dear Dr. Mintler,

When I wrote my rough draft for this paper, I used a three-point thesis to frame my essay paragraphs and arguments. This allowed me to explore different ways to answer the prompt and find a topic that I enjoyed. After exploring the American Dream, identity and reinvention, and literary elements, I decided to write my essay on the overarching theme of the American Dream in *The Great Gatsby*.

Initially, it was challenging to remember evidence from the book that I can use to support my argument. However, this was easily resolved after I had my writing conference where we discussed all of the different aspects of the American Dream present in the novel and direct quotes from different chapters.

I decided to write about the American Dream because I think that it is one of the most controversial themes in not only this novel, but American history. This dream is seen as something that can be attainable for anyone as long as they work hard enough, but the vast gap between the few privileged wealthy individuals in society and the lower class says otherwise. This is an important topic for readers because it forces them to think about the consequences of trying to achieve a dream that may be out of reach, such as turning to illegal activity.

In my essay, I supported my argument by using evidence from *The Great Gatsby*, annotations from my classmates, the *Letter to Maxwell Perkins*, and an online article discussing the misunderstood themes in the novel. There were two assignments that helped me cite evidence

and form my arguments the most, which were the “hypothesis.is annotation comments” and the “PRELIM 1: Keyword Catalog.”

My essay changed between my draft and my final revision because of the way I set up my draft thesis and final thesis. In my draft, I wrote about multiple different aspects of *The Great Gatsby* that led to its enduring success. In my final revision, I chose one aspect to write about and focused my essay on the American Dream.

I left my readers with the conclusion that the American Dream does not lead to a happy and successful life. Instead, it leaves them wondering where their life went wrong after giving up the authentic part of themselves to become someone that will do anything it takes to make it to the top, no matter the consequences.

Throughout the process of writing this paper, I learned that I have matured as a writer, especially since I am a first-year college student who is transitioning from a high school writing style to a more advanced one. I also learned that I am open to challenging popular beliefs and learning about different perspectives to advance my knowledge in different topics. I think that the most helpful thing you did to develop me as a writer was to guide me on how to write this paper in our writing conference. Your advice gave me insight on how to write a college-level paper.

Best Regards,

Ava Brocchini