**The American Dream and the Modern Age**

**Final Essay Prompt**

“The American Dream has run out of gas. The car has stopped. It no longer supplies the world with its images, its dreams, and its fantasies. No more. It's over. It supplies the world with its nightmares now…” Based one what you have learned in your history and English classes, discuss the validity of this statement. Was the experience for Americans in the 1920s and 30s that of a dream or nightmare? First, discuss how modernization and capitalism affected daily life. Then, discuss the effect of modernization/industrialization on the psyche of a character in one of the pieces of literature you have read. Next, give an example of how modern changes in technology changed current mass media and advertising. Finally, make and defend an assertion regarding the benefits or detriments of modernization.

**Please remember:**

1. Your thesis statement will answer the *first* question of the prompt
2. Each separate font (which you should have highlighted in separate colors) addresses a separate paragraph of your essay. Ultimately, you will have *three* body paragraphs for this essay
3. Your FINAL draft must be TYPED and follow standard MLA formatting (Times New Roman, double space, 12 point font, 1 inch margins). Essays not adhering to these guidelines will be considered DRAFTS, and you will receive a zero for your final draft
4. Final essays will be submitted to my Google Drive account. The file name for your essay will be: LastName.FirstInitial\_ModernismEssay. The email address to use for your submission may be found in class.
5. You will be required to turn in your drafts when you submit your final essay online. Failure to turn in your drafts will result in a grade no higher than a 75% (C) for final essay grade