

# What does it mean to be an American Project: Directions/Requirements

This project is an **ongoing process** where there will be **four** drafts (one per unit). Every draft is meant to support the essential question for the year: **What does it mean to be an American?**

To help answer the central question, scholars can use each unit's essential question, but the paper's argument itself must support the scholar's working definition of what it means to be an American.

It is important to note that this is an authentic act of revision, as scholars will continue to develop their essays by **incorporating ideas from each unit where the ideas fit best** into their previous drafts--instead of adding new ideas to the end of each draft. The claim about what it means to be an American should drive the direction and organization of the paper. Since this is an ongoing process, teacher feedback for each draft should drive the revision for each subsequent draft.

To do this, scholars must:

- Include **all** major texts from **each** unit
  - Scholars are required to **incorporate at least ONE supplemental** source from the units (poems, short stories, essays, speeches, art, video clips, movies) **PER SEMESTER** (2 supplemental sources total are required)
- Include at least **two outside sources** (current event articles or their own research articles) that reflect on what is happening today in America **per unit**.
- Include **at least ONE** American classic read for SSR to support the argument **by the end of Quarter 3**
- Include **at least ONE** interview with a community member, parent, veteran, etc.
- **Each draft** should be a minimum of 2 **full** pages long (**which means you must ADD at least 2 pages per draft**)
  - Minimum of 2 full pages at the end of unit 1
    - What unites and divides a country as endlessly diverse as it is large?
  - Minimum of 4 full pages at the end of unit 2
    - Why come to America? How do Americans go about demanding change? How does an author argue through story/narrative?
  - Minimum of 6 full pages at the end of unit 3
    - What was/is the American Dream? What is the difference between carpe diem and hedonism? How does author's craft influence the reader?
  - Minimum of 8 full pages at the end of unit 4
    - How has the American Dream evolved in the face of adversity?
- Follow **MLA format** (8th ed.)
  - Includes in-text citations when paraphrasing or directly quoting sources
  - Times New Roman, size 12 font
  - Double Spaced
  - Title
  - Header
  - Heading
  - Works Cited page
    - ABC order
    - Hanging indent
  - 1 inch margins from top to bottom and left to right