**Disillusionment with the American Dream in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby***

The American Dream is the belief that anyone, regardless of race, class, gender or nationality, can be successful in America by virtue of hard work. It is rooted in the Declaration of Independence, which proclaims that “all men are created equal” with the right to “Life, Liberty and pursuit of Happiness.” It stands as a symbol of hope for anyone who lands on the American shores.

The American dream has found a place in Literature throughout history, beginning with the autobiography of Benjamin Franklin to Mark Twain’s *The adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Willa Cather’s *My Antonia* and F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The great Gatsby*.

*The Great Gatsby* narrates the story of the mysterious billionaire Jay Gatsby and his passion and obsession for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan in America during the 1920s.  
Fitzgerald, in *the Great Gatsby*, discusses the decadence of the American dream during the 1920s, right after the First World War. He captures the transition of its central theme from hope to Materialism. He also sheds light on its hypocrisy with discussion on the prevailing xenophobia and extreme income inequality. My Individual Project sets out to discuss these themes in greater detail with my own insights on the matter. With the help of examples from the novel, I try to establish the idea that the American dream makes people always reach out for something greater than themselves that is just out of reach. In a sense, *the Great Gatsby* acts as a cautionary tale for the American Dream.