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Assignment Design: Argument essay with research

Essay assignment details:

- Critical analysis of the American dream concept
- Integration of at least three sources (two of which must come from IRSC database collections)
- MLA guidelines for research and documentation and essay formatting
- Thesis that provides a clear position on topic
- Evidence to support position
- Acknowledgement of opposing viewpoints

Rubric design:

Combines AAC&U Written Communication criteria with two categories from the Critical Thinking rubric: Evidence and Student's Position

The Critical Thinking Institute conversations helped me substantially in the evaluation stage of the process. While students have not submitted these assignments yet (thus I have no evidence of my rubric implementation), I will share the rubric and assessment measures with students when they bring in their rough drafts. I hope that this will serve as a "checklist" of sorts for them and a way to aim at clarity, precision, and critical thinking.