The American Dream : reality or illusion ? Delusion or reality ? Utopia or reality ? (6)

The United States has for decades been referred to as the country of the American Dream where anyone is given the opportunity to make their dreams come true. This vision/perception is debated/discussed in a set of documents composed of a testimony published in Newsweek from 2023 (doc1) and a 2021 article from The Guardian (doc3) that question / cast doubt on the reality of this ideal today **while** an opinion piece from the website *americancompass* (doc2) also published in 2021 maintains/argues that the American dream still exists . A bar chart from ABC News (doc 4a) and a pie chart from Pew Research Center (doc 4b) released respectively in 2023 and 2024 indicate the result of surveys on American people’s opinion on this issue. (105)

Is the USA still a land of opportunity for all Americans ? (10)

Is the American Dream still achievable in today’s America? (9)

Does America still give its people the opportunity to achieve their dream(s) ? (12)

3 exemples de formulations de la problématique suivie de l’annonce habile du plan principal) :

The viewpoints differ very much depending on how Americans define this concept and the social class/category they belong to. (19)

Total titre + intro 140

Variante à la partie en bleu (c’est une autre manière. De mettre les articles en regard que certains d’entre vous ont adoptée et qui tient bien la route)

...a testimony published in Newsweek from 2023 (doc1) (doc 2)and a 2021 opinion piece from the website americancompass ... that are poles apart on the accessibility of this ideal today **while** a 2021 article from The Guardian (doc3) assesses/**questions** social mobility in the US

Et maintenant le plan très détaillé que je vous propose ; qq ajustements à faire au niveau de l’expression bien sûr puisqu’il s’agit d’un plan.

1. **Not all Americans agree on whether the American Dream is dead or not.** (topic sentence n°1)

* Death of the American dream for working class citizens for whom it has long become a mere fantasy/ a delusion, even when working three jobs (**doc 1)** ,
* a viewpoint flatly denied in **doc 2** whose author considers it is still achievable provided you accept to take risks and take charge of your own life. For him, the choice is yours between taking action and making your dream reality or being a beggar. + 53% think it is still possible **doc 4**
* However according to **doc 3** this ideal based on meritocracy is no more than a ‘’broken dream’’ that does not match reality today. > only 8% of children born in a poor family will climb the social ladder and reach the top 20% as adults.
* Which is confirmed by 47% of the Americans surveyed for whom achieving the American dream is not possible any longer. **doc 4**

1. **This divided viewpoint is due to contrasting definitions of the American dream.** (topic sentence n°2)

* Traditional vision/definition: working hard enables anyone to become economically successful (to go from rags to riches) (**doc 3**)
* This vision contrasts with today’s vision of a working class mother juggling several jobs (**doc1)** who explains that for her the dream is not to possess luxury goods but just being able to make ends meet and enjoy a certain financial security by owning her own, a currently unattainable dream
* **= Doc 4a** : for a majority of Americans (more than 50%) feeling happy and living comfortably is a better definition of the American dream than being a successful businessman (only 39%)
* But this vision is rejected in **doc 2**: considers it is a wrong approach from people who feel entitled to being successful while not being willing to make the effort and sacrifices required and that were done by those they envy, as exemplified by his own personal success thanks to perseverance, hard work, initiative, etc

1. **However signals point to the fact that (this ideal of) equality of opportunity has become more a utopia than a reality for many Americans** (topic sentence n°3)

* Of course there are still success stories like the one described in **doc 2 :** passed from a homeless alcoholic to a successful career in less than ten years = hard work has been rewarded = the promise of the American dream has come true for this man
* However as explained in **The Guardian**, inherited privileges coupled with worsening inequality make it harder if not impossible to make it to the top if you were not born in a privileged background.
* The US offers less social mobility today, all the more so as having a degree has become indispensable to have a well-paying job while getting a degree is increasingly inaccessible to lower-income families **doc 3**
* > blatant inequality reinforced by America’s fierce individualism considering that poverty is more a personal responsibility than a structural or state failing (doc 3), an idea suggested in **doc 2** : the solution to poverty cannot come down from the state – an absence of support to people in need eventually making the US even less a land of opportunity than European countries nowadays.