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**The American Dream**

The American Dream is that the ideal is that every US citizen should have an equal opportunity to achieve success through hard work. Being able to achieve the American Dream is a pretty big accomplishment but it takes plenty of work to get there. The American Dream is different for everyone depending on your socioeconomic status.

The way you grew up and your socio economic status could change the way you perceive the American Dream. If you were someone who grew up in the middle class you lived a pretty comfortable life, but when you get older you want to be a part of that upper class, you want to be able to afford basically anything you want. The prices of houses continue to rise and it is starting to become harder to save money in order to buy a home. For example, “Home prices continue to rise. They’re up nearly 30 percent since 2012, which makes the hurdle of saving enough money for the down payment that much more difficult.” (Derousseau). Buying a house is hard enough by trying to put down a down payment but now getting loans is even harder. Christopher Jones who is a financial planner stated that, “ it’s rare that people come to him wanting to buy a place in 10 years – it’s more a year or so.” Therefore, that limits the investing options you have and you have to start saving as much as you can. If you were to grow up in the upper class, being able to afford a house is an easy thing. If you were to grow up in the middle class, you are most likely going to have to work more in order to buy a house. Your socioeconomic class definitely changes your view as to how you perceive the American Dream.

 What job you are working could affect the way you see the American Dream. Now a days, there is “access to reliable and plentiful jobs.”(Dorousseau). Most people when they first get into the work world try and find a job so they can find their “balance.” If you still have to pay back student loans/debt, you have to find a balance and have potential money goals such as maybe in 10-15 years paying off those student loans. With the balance, you want to pay off those loans but not as quickly as possible. You don’t want to pay it all at once and then now be able to afford things like food, a place to live, etc. you want to work, and pay off a little at a time. More jobs are starting hire and if more jobs hire then the wage growth will start to increase. The article states that “If we keep getting strong hiring, wage gains should accelerate.” (Derousseau). If the steady rate of job hiring keeps increasing, the wage or salary will increase as well. If you find that you have a balance with your job and paying off your student loans as well as having a job with a good wage increase, your perspective of the American Dream could be changed.

 The amount of opportunities given could change your perspective as to what the American Dream is. If you are wealthier and are in the upper class, you are going to be given more opportunities because of the connections you have. Also, where you live could affect the opportunities you have. If you were to live in an upper class part of the country you are most likely going to have more opportunities than people who live in the lower class part of the country. The people who you are surrounded by when you grow up could affect the opportunities you have. NBC did a poll as too who still believed in the American Dream, “34 percent of respondents said they believe in the American Dream still holds true.” (Derousseau). If you are surrounded by people who believe in the American dream when you grow up, you are going to have more opportunities to believe in the American Dream, and to achieve your American Dream.

 The American Dream can be achieved by everyone but in many different ways. The way you look at the American Dream is different than the person you are sitting next to. In order to achieve your American Dream, you have to be willing to put in the work, time and effort so you can achieve it. The American Dream varies the most from the job you work, your socioeconomic class, and the opportunities you were given and the people who surrounded you.