

## Sample Essay

### INTRODUCTION

The United States of America is a nation founded by immigrants from around the world. From humble origins and with hard work, they transformed our young nation into one of the world's pre-eminent countries. The United States of America remains one of the greatest nations on the face of the Earth and continues to offer its peoples (including new immigrants) the hope of a better future.

### BODY PARAGRAPHS

- I. The United States of America continues to be a land of opportunity.
  - a. Entrepreneurs can start new businesses with relative ease.
    - i. Capital (money) can be raised through investors.
    - ii. Capital (money) can be raised through bank loans.
  - b. Higher education is available to everyone.
    - i. There are plentiful colleges and universities.
    - ii. Anyone with motivation and self-discipline can earn a college degree.
  - c. The American Dream of home ownership remains viable.
    - i. Plentiful land allows for many new homes to be built each year.
    - ii. Mortgages make the buying of homes affordable for many families.
- II. The United States of America continues to be a land of freedom.
  - a. Residents of this nation are granted "rights" by the government.
    - i. These rights recognize the inherent worth and dignity of every human.
    - ii. These rights create a civil society that allows each person to pursue their own happiness as they see fit.
  - b. The government is transparent and accountable to the people.
    - i. The people have the right to know what their government does.
    - ii. The government gains its legitimacy from serving the common good.
  - c. Our democracy allows for all individuals to be involved in the political process.
    - i. All citizens can vote, run for office, and speak their mind.
    - ii. The participation of the people in politics is encouraged.

### CONCLUSION

**Can you write a conclusion for this essay? If you care to try, I am willing to read and critique your sample and give you constructive feedback.**

## Sample Essay

### INTRODUCTION

The United States of America is a nation on the decline. Although it is one of the world's pre-eminent countries, the standard for many of its residents are slipping. The United States of America no longer offers its peoples (including new immigrants) the hope of a better future.

### BODY PARAGRAPHS

- III. The United States of America has ceased to be a land of opportunity.
  - a. Entrepreneurs cannot compete with established conglomerates and multi-national companies.
    - i. The large companies, like Wal-Mart and Microsoft, can stifle competition.
    - ii. New small businesses frequently fail and go bankrupt..
  - b. Higher education is becoming too expensive for everyone but the very rich.
    - i. The cost of tuition at private universities and colleges are quickly escalating beyond the reach of the middle-class.
    - ii. Even the cost of tuition at public universities has risen dramatically beyond inflation and middle-class income growth..
  - c. The American Dream of home ownership is becoming more elusive.
    - i. Home prices have skyrocketed beyond the reach of most American families.
    - ii. Many families are forced to pay high rents or forced to re-locate to more affordable (but possibly less desirable) neighborhoods.
- IV. The United States of America is on the road to becoming a land of oppression.
  - a. The rights of the people are disregarded all the time.
    - i. Legislation such as the Patriot Act allows the government to violate the rights of American citizens.
    - ii. Police brutality, segregation, and discrimination are still a reality for many people in various parts of this country.
  - b. The government is becoming less transparent and less accountable to the people.
    - i. Lobbyists and special interest groups dominate the political process..
    - ii. The voices of average Americans are becoming fainter and taken less seriously by the government.
  - c. Our democracy has been corrupted by money and patronage..
    - i. The concerns of average citizens matter less and less to those in power and have less of an impact on the decisions they make.
    - ii. The participation of the people in politics is declining precipitously. .

### CONCLUSION

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