

## Module 4 Essay Rubric

	Poor 1 Points: 25%	Fair 2 Points: 50%	Average 3 Points: 75%	Exemplary 4 Points: 100%
<b>Development of Ideas 50%</b>	Response fails to discuss or discusses in vague terms structural mobility and life chances. Response fails to take a position or takes a position on whether most Americans can achieve the American Dream but fails to support this position or supports it only vaguely.	Response discusses the terms structural mobility and life chances in a way that is somewhat accurate: Structural mobility – downward or upward mobility resulting from changes in the economy. Life chances are shaped by our class and status and include opportunities pertaining to education, income, health, employment, and leisure. Response may take a position on whether most Americans can achieve the American Dream and somewhat supports this position using the concepts of structural mobility and life chances. Identifies that social mobility occurs more often within classes than between classes and is more related to structural issues such as upward and downward mobility resulting from	Response discusses the terms structural mobility and life chances in a way that is mostly accurate: Structural mobility – downward or upward mobility resulting from changes in the economy. Life chances are shaped by our class and status and include opportunities pertaining to education, income, health, employment, and leisure. Response takes a position on whether most Americans can achieve the American Dream and persuasively argues for this position using the concepts of structural mobility and life chances. Identifies that social mobility occurs more often within classes than between classes and is more related to structural issues such as upward and downward mobility resulting from	Response thoroughly and accurately discusses the terms structural mobility and life chances. Structural mobility – downward or upward mobility resulting from changes in the economy. Life chances are shaped by our class and status and include opportunities pertaining to education, income, health, employment, and leisure. Response takes a clear, strong position on whether most Americans can achieve the American Dream and very persuasively argues for this position using the concepts of structural mobility and life chances. Identifies that social mobility occurs more often within classes than between classes and is more related to structural issues such as upward and

		changes in the economy. Life chances are a better predictor of social mobility than hard work and self-determination.	changes in the economy. Life chances are a better predictor of social mobility than hard work and self-determination.	downward mobility resulting from changes in the economy. Life chances are a better predictor of social mobility than hard work and self-determination.
<b>Organization 10%</b>	Response lacks a clear sense of direction. Transitions are lacking or do not help the reader follow the essay. Both the introduction and conclusion are minimal and/or absent.	Organization is skeletal or otherwise limited, which may detract from the reader's ability to follow the response. Some simple or basic transitions are used, but they do not necessarily support the response. May contain a minimal introduction and/or conclusion.	Organization is clear and appropriate. Transitions appropriately connect concepts. May contain an appropriate introduction and/or conclusion.	Organization is effective and supports the logical flow of the response. Transitions effectively connect concepts. May contain an effective introduction and/or conclusion.
<b>Conventions 10%</b>	Demonstrates a lack of control over basic conventions. Response may contain a large number of errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and/or sentence structure OR the errors are severe. Errors interfere with the reader's understanding OR the response is minimal with a density of errors.	Although basic conventions may be mostly controlled, overall the response demonstrates inconsistent control over conventions. Response may not use a variety of conventions (or only basic conventions may be used.) Response may contain a substantial number of errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and/or sentence construction. Some errors interfere	Demonstrates adequate control over a variety of conventions. Response may contain some errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and/or sentence construction. Most errors do not interfere with the reader's understanding.	Demonstrates sophistication and skill with a wide variety of conventions. Response may contain minor editing errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, or sentence construction. Errors do not interfere with the reader's understanding.

		with the reader's understanding.		
<b>Voice 10%</b>	Voice may be lacking or inappropriate. Original word choices may be simplistic, vague, inappropriate, or incorrect. Sentences may be limited in variety or be comprised of awkward fragments or run-ons which produce a halting voice.	Voice may be artificial or uneven. Word choice may be correct for the subject matter, but original material be limited or may demonstrate a limited vocabulary range. Sentences may be choppy, rambling, or repetitive in a way that limits fluency.	Voice is appropriate and clear. Word choice is appropriate to the subject matter and functional. Sentences are appropriate and varied, making the response easy to read.	Voice is appropriately authoritative indicating a high level of comfort with the material. Words used are precise and well-chosen. Sentences are varied and have a natural fluidity.
<b>Focus and Coherence 20%</b>	Response provides no significant justification for its conclusions. Logic, examples, and illustrative language are absent, inconsistent, and/or ineffective. References to theories, concepts, etc. effectively demonstrate no more than a weak grasp of sociology.	Response provides some justification for its conclusions. Some combination of logic, examples, and illustrative language are present but are inconsistent or somewhat ineffective. References to theories, concepts, etc. effectively demonstrate a partial understanding of sociology.	Response justifies its conclusions through some combination of logic, examples, and illustrative language. References to theories, concepts, etc. effectively demonstrate a good command of sociology.	Response persuasively justifies its conclusions through logic, examples, and illustrative language. References to theories, concepts, etc. effectively demonstrate a strong command of sociology.

## **Module 4 Essay**

The American Dream is the belief that prosperity and success are available to all Americans who work hard and are self-determined. The American Dream was a catalyst for the rapid economic and social development of the United States. Most Americans define the American Dream as earning a college degree, owning their own home, taking vacations and experiencing upward social mobility. Due to changes in social structures such as the economy and corporate America, some argue the American Dream is no longer available to all Americans. On the other hand, others still believe anyone can climb the social ladder and experience social mobility. Think about whether you agree or disagree with the idea that social mobility is achievable for most Americans.

Write an essay expressing your opinion about social mobility and the American Dream. Be sure to explain the sociological terms structural mobility and life chances in your response. Integrate these terms and concepts to discuss whether the American Dream is achievable for most Americans.