

CASII

Class Brainstorm

Name:

What makes up the American Identity? What does it mean to be an American? What defines American? What do Americans want?

Below, write down any words, thoughts, opinions, or even images that come to mind when we think of the “American Identity.”

free

able to pursue interests

voice opinion

family

pride

independence

courage

competitive

live on American soil

hard working

high living standard

achievement
strive for success
leaders
opportunity
role models
anything is possible
innovators
passion
diversity
melting pot versus tossed salad
power house - military, economically
striving for equality
justice
pursuit of happiness
fully developed country
united (strength)
greedy
interference
isolationist
overcoming struggle
innocent until proven guilty
religious freedom
wealth
education
standing up for what you believe in
freedom of speech and press

freedom to petition and assemble (protest peacefully)
rights that we are born with/protected by the government
cynical, pessimistic - media
hard work
no fear (of gov)
learned from mistakes or not
winner/number one
patriotism/strong sense of nationalism
love of country
willing to die for country
Olympics - excellent athletes
Spectator sports
obsession with celebrities
technology
intelligence
entrepreneurship
desire for everything faster
consumerism

Most important

Freedom (unique to America)

Diversity (many different types of people)-do we accept
diversity or not?

Individual - independent spirit (negative and positive aspects);
self-reliance

Happiness

Success

Achieving the American Dream (whatever that may mean)

Patriotism/Pride for one's country

January 2016

perseverance

addressing the problems in society

acknowledging problems

exploitation

greed

race=power

blind faith and crushing disappointment

hypocrisy

corruption/lies

control

asserting control

disillusionment

fear of change

embracing change

Reminders about writing a solid paragraph:

- Topic sentence
- Supporting evidence
- Concluding sentence

It is my opinion...

I believe...

NO!

To be an American is to be

_____...

The American Identity could best be described as

_____....

**Mid-Term: The American Identity: What does it mean
to be American?**

**1-Slavery in America from 1850 to 1861/*Incidents in
the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Jacobs**

**2-Civil War and Reconstruction/*Adventures of
Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain**

**3-Native American Resistance from 1850-1890/*The
Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* by
Sherman Alexie**

**4-Immigration/Industrialization/Progressives/*The
Jungle* by Upton Sinclair**

**5-Imperialism (Spanish-American War and WWI)/“In
Another Country” and “Soldier’s Home” by Ernest
Hemingway**

6-1920s/*The Great Gatsby*

