

Year 11 English (Advanced) student work sample – Grade D

Please note: The following work sample has been transcribed for readability. To assist with grading, spelling and grammatical errors have not been corrected and appear as written.

Dreams are aspirations. Not dreams that you have at night but a passion for a goal and the thirst of wanting the goal to succeed. The American Dream is mostly wealth, a blissful family and good parents. In the “American Dream” produced by Sam Mendes it justifies that the American Dream is dangerous in one way for the youth. The short recording of Academy Award winning actor Sally Field improvises that the American Dream is dangerous for the future generations. Dreams can be dangerous and dreams can be graceful.

General introductory statement that shows a basic knowledge of the concept

The American Dream is a broad idea. All nations has it's own cultural dreams. For America there is more dreams than you can imagine, mostly concerning youth, family and future generations. Most likely all nations want their youth to be brought up satisfactory. America for instance is worried. As the American history goes, older generations has not been satisfactorily good leaders and role models. For America citizens, parents are now starting to realise the nation is to be the opposite of who they are now, for the next generation to have beliefs, dreams and a future.

Generally relevant ideas with variable control of expression that shows a basic understanding of the content

The film “American Beauty” produced by Sam Mendes justifies that the American Dreams for fathers are to have good wealth but also wanting to know their daughters/sons. The first scene of the movie shows Jane the daughter of the father, Lester. She explains to the camera that she wants a father who is a role model. “I want a father who can really be a role model.” Jane said this at the start of the movie and there is no technique in this scene but it is powerful because it starts off with a scene that comes out later into the movie. The audience will not know what it is about but they have a broad idea that her father is not being the best role model but instead ruining the relationship between her and her father. There is another scene in the movie showing Lester, the father and the family having dinner. In this scene it shows Jane extremely uncomfortable but handling it because she wants more family time and to get to know her father. Lester whins the whole dinner time. He starts off good by asking what the family has been through but he does not care and goes on about his day. June couldn't take it and leaves. This scene shows a close-up on Jane's face after Lester goes on about his life. She is extremely angry and speechless and walks out. The audience gets another view of Lester. The audience knows how much Jane is trying and Lester trying but you can see the family is still awkward with these situations. The American Dream of being good father only succeeds when the parents know that the family has to unite and know that their daughter/son is looking up to them.

Some evidence from the text but little identification of techniques. Simple retelling

Basic understanding of the selected technique that could be developed further

The recording by Sally Field, shows the frustration of the parent trying to encourage her son by telling him “It is possible if you devote your life to it.” This quote can get to your sons/ generations but in this quote it shows the son being mad because he knows the older generation has not been the best role models.

Rudimentary attempt to link to stimulus material

So, The American Dream shows variety of aspirations but the American Dream is dangerous as the older generations has not been thoughtful of their youth, younger generation.

Brief conclusion

Grade Commentary

Finley has demonstrated basic knowledge and understanding of the concept of the American Dream and the prescribed text. A more detailed identification and evaluation of film techniques is desirable to lift the textual references above description. This response could have been enhanced with reference to the listening stimulus as well as further analysis of the scenes considered.

Finley's response, on balance, demonstrates characteristics of work typically produced by a student performing at a grade D standard.