

Directions: For the final Gatsby assignment, you will select one of the following topics and write an essay thoroughly addressing all the points of the prompt.

The essay must include the following:

A header and a title (not The Great Gatsby Final Essay)

An introduction with a bolded thesis statement as the last sentence

at least three supporting details from the book, each developed in no less than a paragraph

at least four direct quotations with proper attribution, explanation and page numbers

2 to 3 pages typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point font, Times New Roman

A conclusion

1. What does the green light symbolize to Gatsby? To Nick? What is its importance?
2. How does Fitzgerald juxtapose the different regions of America? Does he write more positively about the East or the Midwest?
3. How does Gatsby represent the American dream? What does the novel have to say about the condition of the American dream in the 1920s? In what ways do the themes of dreams, wealth, and time relate to each other in the novel's exploration of the idea of America?
4. Gatsby's obsession with Daisy drives his adult life, and, thus, the novel. At one point Nick observes, "... and Gatsby was overwhelmingly aware of the youth and mystery that wealth imprisons and preserves, of the freshness of many clothes and of Daisy, gleaming like silver, safe and proud above the hot struggles of the poor." What is it about Daisy that Gatsby loves? Why is he so obsessed with obtaining her? Why is it so important to him to erase the previous five years? What does he mean when he cries incredulously to Nick, "Can't repeat the past? . . . Why of course you can!"
5. Compare and contrast Gatsby and Tom. How are they alike? How are they different? Given the extremely negative light in which Tom is portrayed throughout the novel, why might Daisy choose to remain with him instead of leaving him for Gatsby?
6. Why does Fitzgerald call the novel "The Great Gatsby"? Is Gatsby really great? How do the characters perceive him, especially Nick. What statement might Fitzgerald be making about Gatsby and the time period through the title?
7. Even though Daisy is behind the wheel and kills Myrtle, who is responsible for her death? To what extent are the other characters in the novel culpable?
8. The notion of the American dream figures prominently in this story. What is the "American dream"? Moreover, is pursuing the American dream necessarily a good thing, as evidenced by The Great Gatsby? How is the American Dream portrayed in The Great Gatsby? How does the version of the American Dream in the novel compare to the traditional understanding of the American Dream?
9. Write an alternate ending to the novel. Your choices must still fit with a chosen theme of the novel, which you must identify. Your alternate ending must have sustained dialogue and literary elements.