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Short Story Reflection

In class we discussed several aspects, truths, and misconceptions of the American Dream and how they pervade throughout different mediums and perspectives. The common thread of each class discussion was that they all led me to develop deeper appreciation for the relativity of stories. For example, we discussed in *The Dark Knight* how the joker and batman were not clear-cut examples of good and evil, but rather two fervent minds dedicated to their belief system. I remember it was during this class that I discovered my biggest epiphany regarding the American Dream. This epiphany was that the American Dream does not follow a singular, specific narrative but actually an ambitious mindset dedication towards change. Therefore, I wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to create an original work that could express this message.

After juggling several ideas I landed on the Maslow's Reform Center Short-Story. Throughout writing I learned how difficult yet addicting the process of story development can be. Everything presented in the final copy is almost certainly different from the original draft. This extends from serious issues of plot, character development, and background to more specific details such as names, paragraph indentions, and whether or not "Headmaster" should be capitalized. I found the periods of writing followed a waxing and waning pattern. I would spend an incredible amount of time composing one sentence or idea, and then ride the momentum of an idea throughout a paragraph that could be written in the same amount of time. I found myself growing more and more immersed in the ideas I wanted to convey and the story I wanted to tell. Writing is a cathartic experience for me, so this project became a truly moving and powerful experience.

In terms of my level of satisfaction with the finished product, I can say that I genuinely feel proud to submit this story. I love writing and English, and I approach the mystery of how I could engage them throughout my life with wild ambition. I dream one day to be a published writer, whether it be for my own personal books or screenwriting for movies. Because of these ambitions I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities presented in this class. Getting to explore the challenge but ultimately higher creative ceiling that comes with choosing our own path to transmit what we learn is something I'm truly grateful to be a part of. After writing this short story I am more certain that writing is something I want and need in my academic and professional career moving forward.