**The Great Gatsby Essay Assignment**

Your task is to investigate a character from Gatsby. You are to thoroughly review any and all information about that character.

* Investigate:
* What motivates him/her?
* What is his/her ultimate goal or quest?
* Give details about your chosen character including: where he/she lives, how he/she views life, what are his/her interests, how does he/she look, dress, and act, what is his/her background, etc.

* Include a summative quote for your character from the book
* What does the ‘American Dream’ mean to your character? Explain how the book either supports or dissuades the idea of the American Dream for your character.
* What symbols in the book are relevant to the character? Why?
* Research: What does the time period offer your character? What aspects of the time period help or hinder your character? Is your character a ‘product of the times’, or is he/she transient and could exist in the same capacity in another time period (i.e. today)?
* Analyze: Why did Fitzgerald include the character? What was his motivation for creating the character – who is this character based on? How would the story be different without this character?

**Directions**: In a well-organized essay, the introduction should capture the reader’s attention and funnel to a one sentence, declarative thesis that contains an element of analysis (an “angle”). The succeeding body paragraphs must have topic sentences, supporting concrete details, and strong analysis/commentary. Your essay must include a conclusion that makes a judgment and ends with a final thought for the reader

Items you may want to include:

- Reference the characteristics of the American Dream within the body of your paper.

- Discuss how the novel exemplifies a theme, such as the corrupting nature of wealth Or, more generally, explain the theme through an examination of 1920s society and characters in the novel.

- Consider comparing and contrasting the characters (choose a character that is the opposite of yours to compare), also focusing on their attitudes/ beliefs/values.

- Argue who is/are the most admirable and/or despicable character(s) in the novel and why.

- Discuss symbols and their importance to the characters and/or significance to the story.

THIS PAPER WILL BE IN APA FORMAT, COMPLETE WITH AN ABSTRACT. FINAL PAPER SHOULD BE BETWEEN 3-5 PAGES OF TYPED (12 PT. TIMES NEW ROMAN FONT). THE LENGTH REQUIREMENT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE ABSTRACT PAGE.