Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

American Studies English (Standard)

***Into the Wild:* Thesis Essay**

[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&docid=w8riloYQfn_YMM&tbnid=eyuJMZPG7HGMrM:&ved=0CAUQjRw&url=http://wall.alphacoders.com/by_sub_category.php?id%3D200026&ei=bgV9U4qnAebd8AHn4oHADA&bvm=bv.67229260,d.b2U&psig=AFQjCNFDkrMKuQjCsnliXt-4ZP0edVSNUg&ust=1400788541991844)

John Krakauer’s non-fiction text *Into the Wild* presents Chris McCandless as a man who refutes the traditional notion of the “American Dream”. While the American Dream is frequently associated with financial independence and prosperity, McCandless rejects such ideals.

**Your assignment is to compose a four-paragraph, thesis-driven essay that responds to the following prompt:**

What do McCandless’s values, such as the rejection of material items and traditional authority, reveal about his definition of the American Dream?

**Main idea:** In John Krakauer’s nonfiction text *Into the Wild,* Chris McCandless’s rejection of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (DI#1) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (DI #2) reveal that he pursues an unconventional notion of the American Dream.

**Essay Structure:**

Introduction: Background Information, Main Idea, Developmental Ideas

Developmental Paragraph #1: This paragraph will be composed of a topic sentence, two DQ sandwiches, and a concluding sentence.

Developmental Paragraph #2: This paragraph will be composed of a topic sentence, two DQ sandwiches, and a concluding sentence.

Concluding Paragraph: Creatively restate your Main Idea and include a Reach for Significance.

**Questions to Guide Your Analysis:**

1. What value does the DQ reveal?
2. What elements of the DQ suggest this value?
3. How does this value contribute to McCandless’s unconventional idea of the American Dream?

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| **Main idea:** In John Krakauer’s nonfiction text *Into the Wild,* Chris McCandless’s rejection of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (DI#1) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (DI #2) reveal that he pursues an unconventional notion of the American Dream. |

**Idea Tree**