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

**English 10 –** *The Great Gatsby*

Focus Question #3

**Prompt:** Every person belongs to a social class. Some may argue that the social class in which a person is born is the social class that he or she will remain. Others argue that social mobility is part of the American dream, and people have control over which social class they will belong to. In your opinion, is social class mobility possible?

In your essay, take a position on this question. You may write about either one of the two points of view given, or you may present a different point of view on this question. Use specific reasons and examples from “Class and the American Dream,” “Up From the Holler,” your interview, and focus questions 1 and 2 to support your position.

**Answer Plan**:

1. This is a persuasive prompt. Please choose a position and follow the persuasive outline.

2. Use direct quotes from the articles/your interview for your informative sentences. Don’t forget

to explain them!

3. You must address the opposition and refute the opposition.

4. For your conclusion, comment on what social class to which you belong and whether or not you

believe you will stay there as you grow up.

This will be a multi-paragraph essay. Use the space below to begin planning your essay. As you compose your essay, please ask yourself the following…

* *Have I put the topic into its critical context? (What’s the bigger theme or issue that this topic*

*addresses?)*

* *Have I taken a clear position on the issue?*
* *Have I acknowledged and refuted the opposing point of view?*
* *Does my essay maintain focus on the topic?*
* *Have I used logical reasoning?*
* *Have I fully supported my ideas with specific details and clear examples?*
* *Have I organized my ideas in a logical way?*
* *Have I edited for clear and effective language and conventions?*

Your essay should include the following:

* One underlined vocabulary word
* One underlined appositive, commas in a series, OR coordinating adjectives
* Correctly used quotation marks and punctuation for all direct quotes and titles.
* MLA format heading and header