

September 3, 2011
UVM: 27,517

Defining the 'New American Dream'

By [Ron Leshnow](#), About.com Guide, September 3, 2011

In February, [I let you know about a Rent.com survey](#) revealing that 87% of U.S. adult respondents believed that home ownership isn't so essential to the "American Dream." As mentioned in that post, these results inspired the company to launch a contest, inviting video submissions that explain exactly how entrants define their "New American Dream."

(To view the winning entries, check out Rent.com's "[Take Back the Dream](#)" site.)

According to a September press release, the stories underlying the contest entries have brought several common themes to light.

More than anything else, Americans appear to want:

1. to be free from debt;
2. to travel;
3. to change the world;
4. to enjoy financial stability;
5. to do what they love;
6. to lead the simple life; and
7. to create a better life for their children.

Would you consider these aspirations to be the most important elements of your American Dream? Do you think owning a home is still essential?

