

Reaction Paper # 2

EMB 105-001

Due Wednesday 9/25- Hard Copy

Social Inequality: The Unequal Catalyst for a Stratified Society

Purpose:

The second reaction paper explores dual concepts of how social stratification and social mobility as it relates to social inequality. As we move through life, we separate ourselves, often unconsciously, from the people who don't fit in our group, who don't fit in our social class. In fact, America is a country divided by class, split into a thousand social distinctions: the kind of neighborhood you live in, how far you got in school, the type of food you eat, the way you wear your hair. Signs of class is everywhere, yet it's often ignored.

After watching the movie(s): *White Like Me*, *Lost Angels: Skid Row is My Home*, and *Park Avenue: Money & Power*, several connections can be made to this concept. Also reading content from *Explaining White Privilege to a Broke Person* and *Unpacking the Invisible Backpack*, students will understand the influence of cultural, racial, and socioeconomic backgrounds that shape attitudes and opinions in themselves and others. You will find common themes repeated in these five pieces of media.

Addressing the paradigms of social mobility and stratification (or lack of), definitely explains our society as a complex system characterized by sharp class distinctions and often hopeless inequalities of missed opportunities. Everyday individuals can experience social inequality in sports, work, educational settings, politics, or normal social engagements.

Assignment:

Of the five resources mentioned above - movies and readings, students are to use & EMBOLDEN two or more of the resources to answer the three questions below. Be sure to cite which resource you choose to use.

EX: As seen in Lost Angels: Skid Row is My Home (2012)

The use of in text citations must be cited properly to avoid plagiarism.

With supportive documentation, please offer an explanation to these 3 questions:

1. How do different variables impact a person's position (class) in society?

What role does the cycle of poverty play in maintaining social stratification?

2. Do you believe a homeless person of color could come to your campus and give an effective lecture on white privilege? Why or why not? What topics would they possible address?

3. In your opinion, for some people to be rich do others have to be poor? Is extreme wealth in and of itself a social problem? Explain.

Format:

- 2 page minimum -3 page max
- Double spaced pages, New Times Roman 12 point font
- Correct grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and well developed paragraphs.
- Works Cited page (does not count in page count)
- For this exercise be sure to use in text citation when making reference to a movie or reading.