



Building Bridges Across the Class Divide

CLASS BACKGROUND INVENTORY

Please respond to the following questions about your social class background:

1. When you were growing up, what was your family's source(s) of income?
(Investments, public assistance, parent(s)' or guardian(s)' salaries or wages, from what occupation(s)?)
2. Describe your home(s) and neighborhood(s) growing up.
(Own vs. rent, amount of space inside and between houses or apartments, safety, state of repair/etc.)
3. How does the education you are getting now compare with the education of others in your family in this generation, and in the previous two generations?
4. How was your and your family's leisure or non-work time spent when you were growing up? *(Travel, camp, hobbies, sources of entertainment?)*

5. Circle five values or expectations from the list below that seem to be most valued in your family. Then underline five that seem to be least important.

getting by/ making a good living/ gaining social status or prominence/ open communication among family members/ going to a place of worship/ keeping up with the neighbors/ being physically fit or athletic/ working out psychological issues through therapy/ helping others/ getting married and having children/ respecting law and order/ defending your country/ staying out of trouble with the law/ being politically or socially aware/ personal recognition/ sticking up for others in your community/ community service/saving money/ making your money work for you/ enjoying your money/ getting a high school degree/ getting a college degree/ getting an advanced or professional degree/ learning a trade/ helping to advance the cause of one's racial, religious, cultural group/ physical appearance/ being a professional/ being an entrepreneur/ owning a home/ being patriotic/ going to a good school/ not being wasteful/ having good manners/ achievement/character.

Other values or expectations not listed above?

5. What do you appreciate or what have you gained from your class background experience?
6. What has been hard for you from your class background?
7. What impact does your class background have on your current attitudes, behaviors, and feelings?
(About money, work, relationships with people from the same class/from a different class, your sense of self, expectations about life, your politics, etc.)