

# The Sociological Perspective of Josh Doucet

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By Joshua Doucet

I may be an individual, but I am a product of my society. My name is Joshua Nova Doucet, but I simply go by Josh. My skin is white, my gender is male, I was born in the United States of America, and I have spent most of my life living in a middle-class suburban community in Colorado. This makes me the ideal candidate for the label of “privileged.” The word “privileged” may be subjective; however, by comparing myself to a large majority of the people on Earth, I am thankful for the hand I have been dealt in life thus far.

I was born in 1994 in Springfield, Ohio. Then, moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado as a toddler with both of my parents. At the time, my mother was a florist, and my father was a bond agent. He is not a James Bond agent, but the kind of bond agents that helps people borrow money from other people. We lived in a 3-bedroom house that is tucked into a middle-class suburban community within one of the better school districts in the state. As a youngster my parents had two more children, and I became the oldest of three.

When I turned five years old I was enrolled in the well-praised public-school district that I lived in. This was the norm for children in my neighborhood. A child that did not attend school and finish was unheard of. I made friends with the other kids at school, and spent my afternoons playing *Nintendo 64*, roller-skating at the local rink, and modifying my bike to sound like a motorcycle by taping *Pokémon* cards to the spokes of the wheel. I begged my parents for these cards, and I ruined them. At the time, my mentality was that it is okay to destroy things, because I can always get more of them.

As I got older I continued to learn many things in school. I learned to read, write, solve for variables in math, play a recorder, use a computer, balance a checkbook, and draw pretty pictures, but I also learned how to be a member of my society. I learned that I should stand in lines, be kind to others, work hard, and be obedient to those who have authority. Around the time I started high school, I learned that individuals who do not fit in with a group are often shunned. I was also convinced that the things my peers value should be the things I should value as well. At first, we were into getting good grades in school and playing video games all night while drinking *Boo-Koo* energy drinks. Then, we were really into skipping class, causing mischief, dabbling with mind altering substance, and trying to get girls. Long story short, I started high school with the intention of getting good grades and left high school in 2012 with a terrible GPA, bad habits, and a record of mischief.

After high school I got a job at the local grocery store bagging groceries. I also stocked shelves overnight and learned the secret to cooking by working in the meat department. At this point in my life, I began to realize how segregated people are. I realized that certain people have an advantage in life because of the life they were born into, and I was given a golden spoon, and I used it to dig myself into a trench. I wanted to change my values. I worked hard and became a department manager. This job taught me the value of a solid work ethic, and the importance of working together with other people. Also, I learned that I live in a society that is full of narcissism and mindless consumption, and to an extent I shared these characteristics. During this

time, my values were tested. My parents were in financial trouble, and I was put in a situation where I chose to abandon my narcissism and over consumption to help my family. My income became our income. This is when I decided that I wanted to continue to improve myself. Working at the grocery store is a job that people from other societies would value greatly, but I am from middle-class America and am convinced that I am destined to do more with my life. I was given a golden spoon. I live in the land of opportunity.

In 2017 I enrolled in my first semester at Pikes Peak Community College with the intention to transfer to a university to complete a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. Ever since I was a kid I was intrigued by technology. I also did well in math class, so I decided I would pursue something that I love.

Today, I spend most of my time working and going to school. In my free time I read books, mostly non-fiction, listen to podcasts, and try to maintain the relationships with the friends and family closest to me. I meditate to clear my head from the constant commotion of my fast-paced lifestyle, and enjoy craft beer and avocado toast, because as you guessed it, I am a privileged millennial living in the good old' USA.

Overall, I have had a pleasant life, and a large contributor to my quality of life was due to the society I was born and raised in. I have had a few setbacks in life, but I learned from the groups I belong to, that I should not give up, and to take advantage of opportunities as they present themselves. In an ideal future I image myself working a cushy tech job, starting a family, making a difference in other people's live, and traveling the world to experience the cultures of other countries. Why are these my aspirations though? Well, it is because I am a product of my society.