**W13 Exercise: Exploring SOC Education**

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After watching the videos in I-Learn, answer each question below thoroughly, demonstrating critical thinking and the use of the sociological imagination. Each answer should be between 200-400 words, though you will primarily be graded on the quality of content. When you are done, submit your completed worksheet.

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| **Student Loan Crisis** |
| How do student loans provide an opportunity to individuals to obtain the manifest functions of education? Give an example and explain.  Through student loans, any person is able to access the manifest function of education which are socialization, social control, and social placement. For example, the socialization aspect happens when young people who just graduated from high school, start college for the first time and access not only secular education but also learn the rules and cultural norms of society. Social control refers to the process through which the school system tries to maintain social order and discipline among students. Teaching them law and respect for authority. Which will help in the long term to the students to understand the dynamic between them and the authority. And the social placement function in education provides students with methods for upward social mobility, where through college, the student will be moving closer to careers that will provide them in the future financial freedom and security. |
| How do student loans introduce dysfunctions into our society? What are some of the negative impacts that student loans may be introducing into the lives of those who take them? What sociological theory best explains the problems that student loans introduced into society? Explain.  The average American has over $30,000 in student loans. This number is increasing every year. It’s not uncommon for students to take out more than one loan at a time, and sometimes even multiple loans from different lenders. The average student graduates with thousands and thousands of dollars in debt. Student loans became a financial burden for students, who in reality get a very low-paying job After graduation. Some students drop out to avoid accumulating more debt or working full time while taking classes at night, which can lead to lower grades and less social life. Despite that effort to reduce the debt, they must continue paying off many years after they graduate. The reason student debt is a significant social problem is because of how much it can affect a person’s life, and their family lives, which can carry over to their future. |
| **Educational Arbitrage and solutions for the Student Loan Crisis** |
| What sociological theory best represents the solutions to the student loan crisis presented by the speaker? Explain.  The theory that fits in the solutions presented by the speaker is Functionalism. Because he proposed that govern should regulate the student interest rate, this will correct the supply demand issue in the labor markets. Also mentions that colleges and universities should change the fact that they as business are incentivized through graduation enrollment rates not placement rates. In conclusion, all the institutions that benefit from the short and long-term financial impact of the student must create strategies and work together to mitigate the problem. |
| After learning about the student loan crisis in our country, what steps are you willing to take to avoid having future problems related to student loan debt? What may be the benefits of having no student loan debt as you begin your career after graduation? Explain.  Because I am not a resident in this country, the value that I had to pay each semester at any university increased almost double, just for being an international student. So I decided to look for alternatives that would allow me to access education in this country without having getting debts. Fortunately, the Church of Jesus Christ has available to members and non-members the opportunity to access university degrees at low cost. Thanks to taking the pathway connect course, I now have access to BYU-Idaho, where I am currently studying. The great benefit of having chosen this path is that I will be able to acquire a job as soon as I receive my first certification, which will help me pay for the degree each semester without having debts, which will benefit my family in the future because I will be able to dedicate my time and resources to them and not to a student loan debt. |
| **What are grades? Grades v. Learning** |
| How does society interpret the meaning of an A versus a C? Can the giving of grades impair or prevent student learning? Take a stance and explain using the symbolic interactionist theory.  Society labels and categorizes students base on their grades, for example if they got an A, means they are smart and have a good performance on class, whereas the student who got a C often lead to being labeled as a low achiever. Symbolic interactionism theory assumes that people respond to elements of their environments according to the subjective meanings they attach to those elements, in the case of education, the performance of students are categorized between good and bad but without using those words, instead it uses the letter A and the letter C as their symbols.  Giving grades can affect the learning process because can make them focuse more on their performance instead of learning, also can reduces student’s interest and motivation. |
| What is your personal interpretation of the difference between an A and a C? Have grades impaired your willingness or desire to actually learn instead of chasing a “mark”? Explain using an example, how grades have impacted your personal learning experience in school.  My mother has been a teacher all her life, she is very traditionalist, since I was a child she taught me the importance of getting A's. Even though I am now an adult and can understand a bit more how the learning process really works and how this sometimes it was related and sometimes not with my performance in classes, I have engraved in my mind from my early teachings that my effort and knowledge are symbolized by an A, if I get a lower letter it means that I did not do a good job.  It has happened to me that I have studied for many hours trying to complete projects and evaluations in classes that are sometimes very difficult, and sometimes I have had very low grades despite all the effort invested, that discourages me, it makes me think that I have not really learned much and causes me stress.  For example, in mid-term exams, it has been very difficult to perform well because English is not my first language, so many times I answer the questions wrong because I don't understand the meaning of some words, causing confusion in the context of the question. When I see the final grade, it makes me a little anxious because it tells me that I should work twice as hard to have better grades in projects or essays in order to improve the final grade of the semester in that class. |