

Charles Hwang

Professor Martel

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Paper 1

1. Lareau writes that the middle-class parents will often fill their children's schedules with external extracurricular activities as much as possible, while working-class parents will focus more on intangible values and familial ties within the household and living areas.
2. The differences in parenting styles between social classes that Lareau describes lead to different upbringings of children. As families in these social classes assign different activities to their children, they are afforded different types of opportunities and experiences that open and close different metaphorical doors growing up. This leads to children interacting with others who participate in those activities (and as a result are likely in a similar social class), which perpetuates the social inequalities and differences between the two classes.
3. Lareau calls the middle-class parenting style "concerted cultivation" and the working-class parenting style "natural growth".
 - a. The middle-class child Lareau studied almost always has a completely full schedule, develops reasoning and language skills in conversation, and almost exclusively interacts with similarly aged children. The working-class child's schedule is very free flowing, consisting of watching and playing sports, and, since theft is a problem in the community, looking for basketballs to use. Practicing language use is limited and social connections are with many different children in the neighborhood and extended family members.

- b. The middle-class child expects to always be busy and his family devotes a lot of resources (time, money, etc.) to him. This leads to a subtle sense of entitlement on behalf of the child. The working-class household showed an increased distrust in professionals like doctors and teachers and authority figures like school officials and administrators.
4. The social class of my parents has impacted their parenting of me in many ways. I participated in several different activities growing up, including Chinese school for twelve years, piano lessons for nine years, golf lessons for seven years, and soccer for one year. My mother also enrolled me in summer camp for eleven years in part to maintain an active schedule during summer break as well as afterschool care through elementary and middle school. She also tried to discuss my day and converse with me in the car ride home every day after she picked me up from afterschool care. Many of the social connections that I made through elementary and middle school were with those who were in the same class as me at school. My extended family; including grandparents, cousins, uncles, and aunts; lived all over the world and were a distant part of my life which I visited on a few planned occasions. These activities are all reflective of different behaviors from the middle-class household that Lareau surveyed.
5. Both of my parents immigrated to the United States from Taiwan, which may not reflect the findings of Lareau regarding middle-class households. They both grew up in working-class neighborhoods in the Bay Area and were unable to receive much financial support from their parents throughout their time in college. They also did not have much upward social mobility until after they had entered the workforce. Additionally, I did not make social connections through extracurricular activities and made few close connections in high school because I

began to grow to become very introverted; however, the connections that I did make were with those in a similar age range as me. Because I was consistently one of the youngest in my class, it was difficult to find others who were the same age as me unless I made connections with those in classes below me. I also feel that I harbor distrust towards professionals like doctors and company executives and authority figures, especially politicians and administrators, which is more resembling of the working-class household rather than the middle-class household.

6. I am an only child; however, from my limited interactions with them, I can infer that my four cousins have experienced very similar styles of parenting when growing up. Three cousins on my mother's side all took music lessons of some sort and are highly proficient in their instrument, and one cousin on my father's side was enrolled in summer camp. Even though I did not grow up with any of them, it seems that their childhood experiences aligned with the middle-class household that Lareau surveyed about as well as mine did.
7. My mother has intervened countless times in situations throughout my life. One particular time was throughout middle school when I had trouble adapting to the new environment. She was in contact with all six of my teachers and convened a meeting in a room attached to the principal's office to discuss how I could be better incorporated in class discussions and activities. At the time, I did not enjoy the faster pace and the environment with more people and found it difficult when I was not the center of attention as was the case for much of elementary school. I felt that the intervention was a struggle to communicate how I felt because I did not know how to express it verbally and did not know how the teachers would feel about it or if they would perceive me differently. The intervention did not help much or

solve the underlying problem but served as dialogue between the three parties involved in the situation (parent, teachers, student).

- I identify myself in the upper-middle class. I have been very privileged to come from a relatively affluent neighborhood and not have to worry about many financial problems that exist for other families.
- I would classify both my mother and father as having grown up in the middle class. It is difficult to fully place my mother in the middle class, as her family is relatively well off and had the resources and privileges that many families did not at the time; however, she did not have access to many of these financial privileges, in part because of the distance between Taiwan and the United States and because she was the only woman on her generation line (she has three brothers who were treated much better, as is customary in the traditional East Asian culture). I do not have much information about my father's upbringing but can infer from his employment that he is treated well by his family but personally lives a very frugal lifestyle. His family is also in the upper-middle class but in a lower position than my mother's family.
- I was born and raised in Walnut Creek, California. This used to be considered a distant suburb and nearly rural area of the San Francisco Bay Area when I grew up; however, in recent years, it has evolved into a much more modern city for nightlife and Bay Area culture and has significantly increased in regional recognition. This transformation has resulted in rapid development of the downtown area, which is home to many modern stores and buildings catering to younger populations than before. Some of the area has also surely been subject to gentrification as various companies and startup restaurants look to move in.

- Both of my parents were born in Taipei, Taiwan. My mother grew up in both Taipei and the Balboa Park neighborhood of San Francisco. She went to University of California Davis and worked in the Chicago suburbs for about twelve years before taking a new job in Walnut Creek, California. My father grew up in Taipei and went to Michigan State University and now resides in the Los Angeles area.
- My mother currently works as a librarian; however, prior to that, she worked as a quality assurance food scientist for over thirty years. I am not sure what job my father currently has but he has been teaching people how to use computers and computer software for several years.