Class Divide: Short Writing

Class can be defined as an ordering of a society that has been divided into groups based on their economic status, social status, etc. Classism is the ideology that comes from a society that has a class-based system and can be defined as, either prejudice for or against people that are associated with perceived different class. Class can be seen playing a part in the different economic statuses of the two communities either residing near, or operating in, The Avenues: The World School. The residents of the community surrounding the school are displayed as having fewer economic opportunities afforded to them than the students at the school, or the families of the students that attend the school. There is also a display of perceived class within the school itself, where the students attending the school interact with other students that they believe to come from even greater economic wealth to their own. The irony of The Avenues: The World School being directly across the street from the projects is the stark contrast in status of the individuals obviously, but also the contrast in the attention paid to both areas by wealthy contributors. Most, if not all, of the students that attend The Avenues: The World School posses the necessary amount of economic, and potentially social, status for such a prestigious school. This is likely entirely inherited rather than built on their own. Some of the pressures that weigh upon the children of the Eliot Projects residents is simply the differences between what is expected of them and what they could potentially obtain, something they see every day across the street at The Avenues: The World School. The families are very much under pressure to afford not only the daily living, but they also wish to see their children obtain a similar or same level of education. Both of these groups understand fully that the key to a better life is a good education, and with what is touted as the highest quality education presented directly in front of them on a daily basis, it understandable for this to pressure them constantly. Most of the individuals in this documentary define their success by their economic standing, both current and potential. They routinely mention how they live paycheck-to-paycheck at times and their disillusionment with the treatment the community has received in regards to attention from the officials overseeing the project’s current standing, as well as the opportunities the school could afford the disparaged denizens. America was founded without a regard to class. It has over time regained some of the old-world classism, as is the nature of the “Haves” and the “Have nots” relationship. In my opinion, this has been a constant detriment to the culture and people of the United States let alone the entire world. The ability to have this idea of class comes from the inability of those of lesser standings to overcome the gap between these perceived classes, be it laws against poorer individuals, laws in favor of wealthier individuals, spending neglect, incompetent programs, etc. Class impacts each rung of a class-based society differently. Individuals regarded as being in the wealthiest classes may enjoy an easier time with economic factors as they are usually only burdened with the task of maintaining their current wealth, but they inversely deal with a strenuous time with their social class as it is the main source of any experienced discrimination. Those in the lower definitions of a class-based society experience the opposite stresses of their rich counterparts. They deal with greater economic difficulties on a daily basis, but their social status is rarely if ever a factor of their life. The experiences of poverty are far more present in this class than the other two and discrimination can be felt regularly as well. The middle class is the one that must handle both stressors, though to a lesser degree than their respective alternatives, but with a greater chance of unexpected disaster as well. They experience poverty and discrimination with a greater deal of focus than the other two classes, being the largest class in America and the highest affected from the sway of economic change.