I. Education

A. Public Education: K-12

1.Function

a. opportunity

b. knowledge and skills

c. citizenship

d. socialization

2. Structure

a. universal and publicly funded

b. locally controlled

c. meritocracy:

i. success: hard work and ability

ii. ability grouping and tracking

iii. tests: objective measure of achievement

d. classroom model

3. Bush Administration: Grade F

4. Bush education policy

a. No Child Left Behind

i. standardized testing

ii. evaluates: students, teachers, administration, school

iii. schools: designated as failing (26,000 out of 93,000)

iv. school choice aka vouchers

v. charter schools

b. “Houston Miracle”

5. Obama policy

a. RTTT (“Race to the Top”)

b. $4.35 billion one-time grants

c. central tenet: evaluate teachers based on test results

d. schools apply by demonstrating conformity to central tenet

e. lower-performing schools: reconstitution, charter, closure

B. Public Education as “Gatekeeper”

1. Inequality: funding

a. local property tax

b. foundations, car washes, bake sales

c. funding differentials

i. per student +24%-70%

ii. per class (NYC/25) +$200,00

iii. states

d. race

i. + 2/3 B and L in schools predominantly minority

ii. 1/3 go to schools 90% minority

iii. minorities: disproportionately poor

e. Rodriguez vs San Antonio

2. California

a. 47th per student spending

b. “crisis”: $17 billion in cuts

3. Consequences: unequal funding

a. teachers

i. salaries

ii. credentials

iii. specialties

iv. dumping

b. resources: textbooks, computers, supplies (toilet paper!)

c. safety: $100+ billion to fix 20,000 public schools

d. large classes/large schools

e. less health care

f. less counseling

g. less extracurricular activities

h. toilet paper

4. Consequences: crisis and California

a. 20,000 teachers, nurses, school librarians and counselors fired

b. art, music and vocational programs eliminated

c. RTTT: harder to recruit teachers for underperforming schools

d. RTTT: narrow curricula, neglect proficient students, dumb down

standards

e. Governor could hold up 50% of grant funds

C. Other inequalities

1. Socialization

a. different norms for different groups

b. ability grouping or tracking

2. Standardized testing

a. same standards

b. equates learning with testing

3. Excluded Knowledge

a. history: “Lies My Teacher Told Me”

b. political system

c. U.S. expansionism and military interventions

4. Citizensship

5. Private schools

D. Inequality as “Success”

1. economically: drop outs for McJobs

2. politically: uneducated citizenry

3. criminal industrial complex: uneducated, unemployed, poor for prison

E. Poverty and meritocracy

1. poor children and hungry

2. poor children and illness

3. poor children and resources at home

4. poor children and poor schools

F. Keeping Teachers

1. $60,000 to get credential

2. avg teacher $1500 of own money

3. 50% of teachers quit in 5 years

II. Higher Education

A. System

1. Private “elite” colleges and universities

2. Public Universities

a. Research: UC systems

b. Teaching: CSU system

3. Private “Open” Universities

a. University of Phoenix

b. National University

4. Community Colleges

B. Gatekeeping

1. Increase Cost

a. public avg 2001 $8,400 2008 $13,000

b. private avg 2001 $22,000 2008 $29,000

c. textbooks

2. Increase avg debt 2001$12,000 2008 $21,000

3. Grants vs Aid

a. Pell Grants (1975 84%- 2003 42%)

b. total: majority loans ( unsubsidized)

4. impact

a. middle and working class

b. poor and minority