

How does social class and alienation go hand in hand?

Let's start with defining what social class is. For starters when we think of it our minds automatically go to economic status. Whether this be where you grew up or how much money you have. If we look deeper into it, social class also would influence a person's lifestyle and opportunities. I believe that depending on what “social class” you are put in highly influences how a person acts or even sees the world.

It is important to note that social class is not in most cases something that people choose rather something they are born into. With this comes ideas that the average person would not fathom. At least we all know the average person does not get dropped off at school in a private car with a driver. Or even the fact that they have more opportunities offered just because of who they are or because they have the money.

Social class is a concept that in most cases is taboo. Maybe it is because it has to do with money. Many people do not like to talk about money because it shows what or who they are. Many of the people in the higher parts of the social class make up the power elite. These people have unthinkable amounts of money and do not have to worry about having to change what they are just to make ends meet.

Although there are many examples, one clear one is the opportunity for education. For example, tutors or even not having to worry about having to work and go to school. Yes money does play a part in these situations but so do connections. We hear stories about how parents go to extremes to get their children into big names school whether through treats or checks.

Now for alienation. In this context alienation means the act of acting the same as others. In an “alien” like state. An example being that of factory workers. Even though they are all their

Feeling like a robot is something most people do not want but because it can affect their livelihood if they do not they deal with it. Alienation in this context makes people act in ways they would not just because they need to hide their sense of self.

When I think about why alienation is such a common practice even when not intended. As I mentioned earlier the power elite has a lot to do with it. They are the people in charge which means people play to please them. People may also prioritize other goals over the self which may lead to a sense of disconnection with themselves or others. Alienation is common due to the fact that society, at least in America, emphasizes individualism, fast-paced lifestyles, and economic disparities, all of which can lead to disconnection within individuals.

The difference I can find within both social class and alienation is quite clear. Although both topics go hand and hand, neither one has their own characteristics. Social class is used more in the concept to describe a person's economic status. It also can be used to describe someone emphasizing on the job they work, what they look like and how much money they make. Examples would be whether someone is a blue or white collar worker, what class they are in (upper, middle, lower), privileged or underprivileged, etc. Compared to alienation where it is used to describe the way someone acts. As I mentioned earlier, in the example of the factory workers. I chose that one because not only does it give a visual on the amount of people alienation is commonly referring to but also represents the fact that every single worker is “forced” into a bubble to act the same.

The similarities I found between both alienation and social class is how both are used to describe someone. This is because when someone is referring to someone's social class many use the fact that they have the resources to physically own something. When we talk about alienation

correlate with each other. Without alienation of the working class there would probably not be such a close knit community. The power elite is so influential on other social classes that they will always be sat at a higher pedestal.

In conclusion, I believe that both alienation and social class are not going anywhere. Whether people agree or disagree with them these two topics will always be brought up in American society. Both topics not only play a part of how we as a generation continue to allow what roles we are seen as. I think even though both are seen in such a negative light we as a society should strive to not only make it better but to make people aware that these issues exist.