

A class system is based on individual achievement as well as various social factors. A class is a group of people who share a common status with regard to things like education, income, wealth, and occupation. In the United States, there are generally three classes such as working, middle, and upper class. These classes have a set of collective beliefs, or consciousness, which makes them feel as though they belong. The actions and behaviors of these different classes are determined by the class consciousness.

In the article, 'Class in America', Mantsios discusses how the media presents a "view of the street life and the inside look at the rich and famous serve as unique models, one to avoid and one to aspire to." This shows how we have made a collective consciousness throughout society, telling us from early on that we must aspire to be the top tier class, which is nearly impossible. Mantsios also mentions how the middle class mutes the class differences, while allowing to avoid any conflicts or injustice. School institutions can also be dependent on one's social class, it is said that "upper-class families are twice as likely to obtain training beyond high school and four times as likely to attain a postgraduate degree." (Mantsios). Domhoff talks about how "when it comes to social power most Americans have very little of it if they are not a part of the power elite." This shows how our collective consciousness has lessened from class differences but not enough for unfair advantages due to being in the high class.

We all have a social class that we are defined to, typically given to us as soon as we are born, and we are given the opportunity to work to raise our social status. Social classes don't always have to deal with one's wealth, it can be things such as age. Through my own experiences, schools have a collective consciousness between classes by their age groups, the freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. High schools have these collective beliefs that because you are older, you are better than the class(es) under you. Class systems are seen with anything in life, they are based on social factors that we establish through our collective consciousness.