

all know of the class positions: lower, middle, and upper class -- each with their own characteristics. This idea of class plays into the social system a person and their family belongs to. Mantsios believes that America is a classless society, everyone falling under our category of middle class. Domhoff argues that there is a group called the “power elite” who control many things in our society.

Many people like to ignore the fine lines dividing the classes, while to some it means a great deal. Material chances are based upon a persons abilities, meaning that people have to work for what they want. Domhoff has the idea that the “power elite” is a group within our society that is categorized into the upper class, including members such as CEOs, Board of Directors, and Board of Trustees. Their standing makes it hard for the working class to move around much, because it’s dedicated to people of certain standards. Connecting back to the idea mentioned in the beginning of this section, those who work hard and make their money are assimilated into the power elite. If you are unable to get a job that pays well based off of your abilities, then you most likely are apart of the middle class. Mantsios sees this from a very different perspective, stating that the “middle class” can contain annual salaries that range from \$15,000 to \$324,000. This idea of his shows his belief that there are not class systems in America, just that different people make different salaries. A similarity between the two readings is that they both believe being born into a wealthy family will help your chances while being born into a poor family will hurt your chances.

I believe that we have a very distinct collective consciousness about class in the United States. Many people have their ideas about whether a family is in a certain class based on the things they wear, the cars they drive, the schools they attend, etc. In highschool, I worked with a

without knowing anything about my family income. Certain places and things are seen in a similar way across our nation. I agree with Domhoff's argument that there is a part of the upper class that has a control on the other three classes.