**A sociological exploration of inequality in educational opportunity**

Student’s Name

Institution

Course

Date

**Outline**

Introduction to the concept of educational opportunity in society.

Explanation of the three sociological theories in detail and placing them into the perspective of the subject of the paper.

**Structural functionalism**

* The arguments of inequality of education opportunity follow structural functionalism.
* There are many ways to explore the inequality in educational opportunity through structural functionalism. One way is to look at the different types of institutions within the education system.
* Another way to explore the inequality in educational opportunity through structural functionalism is to look at the different types of students who attend different types of schools.

**Conflict theory**

* Explores the inequality of education through the conflict theory
* Conflict theory would explore the inequality of educational opportunity by looking at how the educational system benefits those in power while oppressing those without power.
* Contrary to the structural-functionalist approach, conflict theory holds that society is full of competing for social groupings, each with varied goals, access to opportunities, and social incentives.

**Symbolic Interactionism**

* Exploring the inequality of education following symbolic interactionism.
* From the symbolic interactionism point of view, there is significant inequality of educational opportunity between different social groups in society.
* Symbolic interactionists only consider what they see happening in the classroom when they analyze schooling.

**Conclusion**

* Summary of the arguments on the inequality of educational opportunities.