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Intro to Sociology

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Agents of Socialization

The “Agents of Socialization” are groups and institutions that influence socialization amongst people. This in turn shapes our morals, viewpoints, and even our relationships with other people and organizations. A few agents that have influenced me as a person are the internet (mass media), my academic experience, and my family.

First out of the few is the internet. The internet itself has had quite a heavy influence on my viewpoints, exposing me to all sorts of things. Not only has it shown me different cultures, ways of life, and opinions on global, international, and local levels, but has also exposed me to music, graphic art, and lots of friends. Without the internet, I would not have been able to be in contact with friends all around the world on a daily basis. The internet has proven to be a useful tool for me and has also been a main focus in my life. After being on the internet for some time, I’ve learned to adapt to the language that is used online as well as how to be familiar with its own specific mixture of cultures. It’s taught me almost everything I know about computers and internet companies, which are two things that I’m going to pursue for most likely the rest of my life.

The next agent that has had a strong influence on me is my academic experience. I’ve had a mixture of private schools and charter schools that I’ve had to deal with which had almost completely different ways of life. Before 8th grade, I had been going to private schools in Asheville and because of this, I was around people who were about acceptance and being yourself. When I went to my charter school in Lake Lure, North Carolina, however, it was quite different. The culture, morals, and views on individuality were almost shocking to me. In Rutherford county, people were quite religious in regards to Christianity and were quite strict about acting a certain way. If you were to act differently, you were looked at weird or were cast out from social situations. It felt like you had to conform or you were judged for being different. At Asheville, however, you are liked for whatever you want to be. So, over time, I’ve had mixed experiences but have been quite influenced by both. Since I went to Asheville, I am quite a neutral, open, accepting, and polite person who is not afraid to be himself. When I was in Lake Lure, I learned to fit in to that kind of culture, being respectful, and knowing when to refrain from doing weird things in order to adapt.

Last but not least is my family. I was raised by a mother and father and was an only child for 7 ½ years of my life. My parents were the ones that disciplined and helped me learn some rudimentary moral concepts and behaviors. Over time as I grew older, my parents became more lenient and open to what I was developing into. They liked how I was becoming my own person and let me be who I wanted to be, instead of making me be a certain person or act a certain way. Because of this, I was able to like what I wanted to like, make my own decisions, and was able to choose what I wanted to do in life. They were supportive of everything I did and were there for me when I needed them. Going back to when I was just a kid, for 7 ½ years, I was an only child, which resulted in all sorts of behaviors. I became more of an independent child that tended to keep to himself. I didn’t have many kids in my neighborhood, so it was hard to find someone to play with that lived close by. Because of this, I may have started to develop sadness, which later formed into depression when I was in middle school. I am somewhat emotionally sensitive to this day because of this. Due to these three major factors, I have become who I am now: a well-rounded, adaptable, independent human being.