

## Social Class Essay

**Directions:** Your assignment is to write a personal essay that **reflects on how class status affects your current life and long-term aspirations**. You may also opt to include a broad perspective and write about your personal thoughts on **how class affects people's lives and long-term aspirations (in the U.S.)**.

\*Below is a list of questions that may help you get started with your essay. You are not required to answer the questions below, but feel free to use them as a guideline to get you started.

\*This essay may either be hand-written (2 pages) or typed (1.5 pages double spaced).

### GENERAL

- How does your class status influence the decisions you make in your life?
- Do you believe that your class status helps or hinders your life goals? How?
- Do you have a positive role model in your life? If so, who is it and what influence does s/he have on you?
- Is there a person or people in your life who you fear may be negative influences? Are you taking steps to minimize their influence on you?
- What opportunities in your life, if any, may contribute to your future success?
- What obstacles in your life, if any, may make it difficult for you to achieve success?

### FAMILY STRUCTURE

- What do you think is the ideal family structure? Why?
- What type of family structure do you hope to build in your adult life? Why do you hope for this family life?

### NEIGHBORHOOD AND HOME LIFE

- Where do you live and how long have you lived there?
- How would you characterize where you live? Does it support you or make it difficult to do school work etc.?
- Do you know of anyone who has moved neighborhoods to gain access to a certain school district? If every student is supposed to have access to an "equal education", why would it matter what neighborhood you live in?
- If you have moved, where else have you lived? Is your current situation better, worse or about the same?
- Optimally, where would you like to live? Why?

### EDUCATION

- Do you plan to go to college? If so, where and for what? If not, what are your plans after high school?
- Do people in your life (family, friends, neighbors) encourage you to continue your education?
- Have other people (grandparents, parents, siblings) in your family gone to and/or graduated from college?
- How does their experience affect your feelings about the kind of education you plan to earn?
- Is LSW adequately preparing you for your personal plans post-high school? Explain.

### CAREER/EMPLOYMENT

- What career do you imagine for yourself?
- What steps must you take in order to achieve your career goals?
- How easy or difficult do you imagine it will be to achieve those goals? Why?
- Do you work now? If so, does your current job prepare you for your future career?

### LUXURIES

- What kinds of luxuries do you enjoy (television, music, vacations, etc.)?
- What kinds of luxuries do you hope to have in the future?
- Why do you hope to attain these luxuries?