

TOPIC: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON EDUCATION

Functionalist Perspective on Education

- ◆ Functionalists focus on the intended (_____) & unintended (_____) functions of education.

Functions of Education

Manifest Functions

- ▶ **Academic:** Language, math, science, and history.
- ▶ **Socialization:** Instill _____ norms and expectations.
- ▶ **Innovation:** Research and science (collegiate level).
- ▶ **Social Placement:** Increases social _____ based on skills and work ethic.

Latent Functions

- ▶ _____.
- ▶ _____ workplace competition.
- ▶ Expands social networks.
- ▶ Facilitates courtship.

EXAMPLE

The box below lists some manifest and latent functions of education. Pick one manifest and one latent function and write a sentence about how it helps society function.

Manifest	Functions
<hr/> <hr/>	<p>Childcare.</p> <p>Cultural Transmission.</p> <p>Social Placement.</p> <p>Courtship.</p> <p>Social Networks.</p> <p>Social Control.</p>
Latent	
<hr/> <hr/>	

PRACTICE

Based on your understanding of the functionalist perspective, which statement would you expect a functionalist sociologist to agree with?

- a) The interactions between students and teachers shape a student's expectations of themselves.
- b) In a multicultural society, formal education teaches cultural expectations to aid in assimilation.
- c) Formal education recreates the social structures of society at large and can perpetuate inequality.
- d) Education in schools only functions to create a more merit-based society.

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Conflict Perspective on Education

- ◆ Conflict perspective focuses on how education creates & perpetuates inequality.

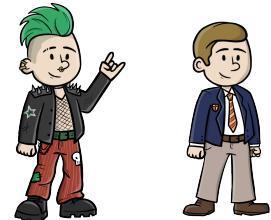
Cultural Capital

- ◆ Cultural knowledge & resources that are used to navigate social life.
- ◆ Comes from the _____.
 - ▶ Ex: Materials to do schoolwork, help with college applications, etc.
- ◆ Individuals with ____ cultural capital may be rewarded for it in school.
- ◆ Transforms social standing/class into personal _____.



Hidden Curriculum

- ◆ Norms, values, and beliefs that are taught _____. For example:
 - ▶ Dress codes (imply that obedience is more important than personal expression).
 - ▶ Obedience to authority (mirrors being subordinate in the workplace).
- ◆ Students with ____ cultural capital often understand how to succeed within the hidden curriculum.



Tracking

Students are assigned to different academic tracks based on their achievement.

- ◆ Often based on standardized test scores → can be _____ towards high SES individuals.
- ◆ Tracking can influence students' education and their _____-concept.

- ◆ Globally, _____ to education can be limited for particular groups (women, racial minorities, & poverty).

EXAMPLE

Tracking is the practice where students are put on different educational tracks based on their abilities.

1. Why might individuals support tracking in education?

2. What issues might a conflict perspective sociologist have with tracking?

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PRACTICE

Which of the following would be examples of cultural capital?

- I. Owning a computer for working on homework.
- II. A parent with a master's degree, who can help you navigate college bureaucracy.
- III. Access to a private tutor for the SAT.

- a) I & II.
- b) I & III.
- c) II & III.
- d) I, II, & III.

PRACTICE

True or False: if false, choose the answer that best corrects the statement.

The hidden curriculum often ends up benefiting students from high socioeconomic status backgrounds.

- a) True.
- b) False, hidden curriculum most often benefits students from low SES backgrounds.
- c) False, hidden curriculum most often benefits working class students.
- d) False, hidden curriculum most often benefits students from multicultural backgrounds.

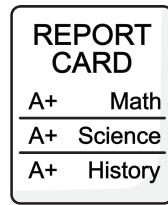
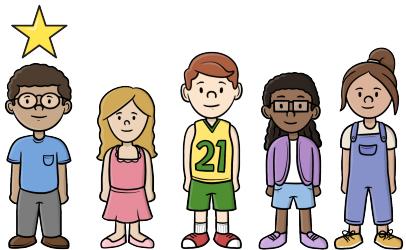
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Symbolic Interactionist Perspective on Education

- ◆ Symbolic Interactionists look at how interactions between individuals shape the experience of education.
 - ▶ Strong focus on _____.

Self-Fulfilling Prophecy

- ◆ How a teacher labels and treats a student can influence their _____.
- ◆ **Rosenthal & Jacobson (1968):** Studied self-fulfilling prophecy in the classroom.



_____ labeled some students as “gifted.”

Informed teachers these students were “intellectual bloomers.”

By the end of the year the “gifted” students were at the _____ of their class.

Credentialism

- ◆ Focus on degrees & certificates as markers of education, skill, and intelligence.
- ◆ Labeling on the _____ level.



EXAMPLE

In one or two sentences, describe the idea of a self-fulfilling prophecy in education, and why this is relevant under the symbolic interactist perspective.

PRACTICE

A focus on credentials leads to increased _____ among adults in a society.

- a) Labeling.
- b) Tracking.
- c) Self-fulfilling prophecy.
- d) Recidivism.