

What into someone
social stratification. i
interviewed two



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What is race? Race is defined as a group of persons related by common descent or heredity (Dictionary). Many notice this as color of skin or where you were born. The differences in race, class, gender is what make the position of an individual in society. In our textbook race is defined as " a category of people who have been singled out as inferior or superior, often based on real or alleged physical characteristics such as skin color, hair texture, eye shape, or other subjectively selected attributes" (Kendall, 2013, p 296). A variety of people believe that race and ethnicity are the same when they are not. Race, class, and gender all play into someone's social stratification.

I interviewed two individuals from different race and ethnicity and different class and gender. These individuals both came from a different walk of life. The first person I interviewed was an admission administrative for South University Columbia campus.

The person I interviewed was a woman which is African American in race and African in ethnicity. Ethnicity is defined as the fact or state of belonging to a social group that has a common national or cultural tradition (Dictionary). Our textbook defines ethnicity as " a collection of people distinguished, by others or by themselves, primarily based on cultural or nationality characteristics" (Kendall, 2013, p 296). Her name is Carmellita Outten. Based on Mrs. Outten's background she came from a low-class family but has now made her way towards being middle class today. She explained she had many struggles throughout her years and wanted to help people get into school. According to our book today middle class is two-year or four-year college degrees have

replaced the high school diploma as an entry-level requirement for employment in many middle-class occupations (Kendall, 2013, p 219).

When applying for college she helps students get all the resources and so much information about the school. Mrs. Outten also exhibited social mobility. Social mobility is defined movement of individuals or groups from one level in a stratification system to another (Kendall, 2013, p 212).

With her being a middle-class person, her job is to help people get into school and they can graduate and obtain middle class or upper-class jobs. She explained saying "middle class can have their ups and downs but its how you get through it and make it the best it can be you will be fine". She explained her race played a significant role into her life because she is African American, but she is extremely light skin, and many people always take her for being mixed or just being Caucasian. At her place of work her office has moved into a different location as if she is more experienced than other admissions administrative. With her being a female, she explained as if some things were just handed to her because of her being a woman. As far as social perspective I believe the symbolic interaction best describes Carmellita's life. Symbolic interaction focuses the study of sociology on the daily interactions of people within larger society. Symbolic interactionism is micro-level because it looks at our behaviors in specific situations (Kendall, 2013, p 21).

I choose symbolic interaction because she had a challenging time growing up and was in the low class she decided to become someone that can help people get into school and have a better life for themselves and obtain a

great education. She helps with the first step into getting a better education and then it's up to the person to make it all the way through. Theorists use this perspective focus on the process of interactions defined as immediate reciprocally oriented communication between two or more people and the part that symbols play in communication. A symbol is anything that meaningfully represents something else. Examples include signs, gestures, written language, and shared values. Symbolic interaction occurs when people communicate using symbols (Kendall, 2013, p 21).

The second person I interviewed is Hayward Thompson. Hayward is a friend of my father for a very long time. Hayward works at a truck stop but during his free time he loves to give back to the community by helping with toy drives around Christmas and around Thanksgiving helping to give out plates to the homeless and less fortunate people.

Hayward is a low-class man or working class. Working class is defined by those who sell their labor to the owners to earn enough money to survive. An estimated 30 percent of the U. S. population is in the working class, which is characterized by an annual income in the \$40, 000 range.

Today, many in the working class are employed in the service sector as clerks, sales- people, and fast-food workers whose job responsibilities involve routine, mechanized tasks requiring little skill beyond basic literacy and a brief period of on-the-job training (Kendall, 2013, p 220). His race is African American, and ethnicity is African. Hayward has no children and his wife passed away a couple of years ago. He decided with his free time when he is off work to give back to people going to several types of organizations. Being

a working class African American man people may think he's committed some type of crime or he just doesn't look like a person who would give back and try to help other people especially when they're less fortunate themselves. These factors play a role in his stratification.

Based on the sociological perspective Mr. Thompson best fits in the social conflict interaction. Social conflict is defined by norms and laws that exist to support the current inequalities those in power have the ability and resources to control society (Kendall, 2013, p 18). I choose social conflict due to the fact the norms of his history and what people in his social organization seem accurate is what he observed.

He says, "when you give back you will always get something in return, you may never know where it came from but always see it as a blessing". From that stand point I agreed with him. He said, "since he doesn't have no children he wants to put a smile on other children's faces". This sociological perspective shows us that Hayward follows the norms of his culture and exceeded to become a respectable working-class man.

The stratifiers are playing a leading role for Mr. Thompson. This is due to him being of male gender, which in some places are considered inferior to women and his position in the working class makes him well respected in the community because usually people that are already less fortunate don't usually give back or do special things for the community. Based on his culture and the norms, Hayward knew what he was doing was something from the heart. Hayward gained prestige through his challenging work and dedication.

Prestige is defined as the respect or regard that someone or status position is given (Dictionary).

He stated, " when I first started joining these events I felt like an alien like I wasn't in the right place at the right time". This can be described in the term alienation. Alienation is defined as a feeling of powerlessness and estrangement from other people and from oneself (Dictionary).

This would explain his acceptance of the way his life was set up to be.

For an interview there are many pros and cons. An interview is a data-collection encounter in which an interviewer asks the respondent questions and records the answers (Kendall, 2013, p 41). The pros to an interview is you get better information from being face to face with the person. Another reason is you would know the information you're getting is credible. When doing an interview you would have something to quote them on something that is coming directly from that person's mouth. A con is it can be time consuming.

You might have a set time on how much time you want to take but you may go over that limit. The questions might also be difficult for the person to answer. Even though the source is credible the person may or may not be telling the truth while answering the questions. When conducting an interview, one must make sure that respondents must be screened as appropriate and questions must be structured to the specific topic.

In conclusion I have interviewed two people I know that contributes to society. I explained their race, gender, and class and how it affects them in society. I also have explained which social perspective best explains their life
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and why I choosethat perspective. By interviewing these two individuals, I was able todetermine race, ethnicity, class and social stratification. Mrs. Outten and Mr. Thompson come from the same backing but now are in two different class. Regardless of what class they are in they both do something for the community