

**Take Home Midterm Exam**

This exam is due in class, Tuesday May 4th. Please word process your answers double spaced. Devote 1200-1400 words to your answer. Put your name and Group number on each page. Keep a copy. Place a word count on the top of the first page of your answer.

Incorporate information from readings, lectures, in-class videos, and discussions. When we grade your answers, we will look for the analytic power of your argument and how well you document the evidence that supports your position. Students who make no effort to demonstrate mastery of course materials can expect an F. Students who show a minimal mastery of assigned readings and lectures can expect a D. Students who have assimilated the basic ideas of lecture but who do not integrate the readings in exams can expect to receive a C. Students who integrate readings and lecture material and construct a well reasoned argument in exams can expect a B. Students who integrate readings and lecture material and construct a thorough and creative argument can expect an A.

Keep these features of a good argument in mind:

Level 1 The argument consists of a simple claim *without* discussing a counterclaim or without juxtaposing one claim against an other claim; presents some evidence; does not contain rebuttals

Level 2 The argument consists of a claim *with* a discussion of a counterclaim or pits one claim against an other claim; presents some data, but does not contain any rebuttals.

Level 3 The argument contains a claim or a series of claims or counterclaims *and* presents data but presents weak rebuttals

Level 4 The argument has a claim with data with a clearly defined rebuttal with data and a resolution of the two claims.

A note about reference style: Cite author and date of publication in the text, for example: Cicourel & Mehan (1983). Do NOT cite author, title of article etc in your text, like this: "Aaron Cicourel & Hugh Mehan, two brilliant research social scientists, wrote the most amazing essay I have ever read. In this fascinating article, these authors claim . . ." While this observation most certainly is true, saying so is a waste of space in a short essay.

As the US has become more and more industrialized, many sociologists have claimed that schools in the US perpetuate educational inequality. Identify and describe at least 3 factors or practices that contribute to the reproduction of inequality.

Not all people who study schooling in the United States agree with the above claim. Identify and describe at least 3 factors or practices that provide a counterclaim to this assertion. (See the description of Level 3 arguments described above)

Which argument do you think is the most persuasive? As you write this portion of your answer describe which argument presents the most convincing evidence to support the claim?