Does Judging a Person Further your Education?

Racisms’ impact on poverty and education levels in America is a critical problem in today’s society. I particularly have a strong interest in racial classification, due to my high school experience. Since I attended a private high school there are many times people assumed my intelligence and social class. Most people assumed that because I am Caucasian and have attended private school all my life that I am wealthy and highly intelligent. People would also categorize students of color to have low-incomes and only attending a private school off athletic abilities instead of their intelligence. Though my experience has been in privative schooling, I will be focusing on education in areas of poverty. We are in the twenty-first century and although it is hard to believe, education levels in impoverished areas are still extremely low today. Most people categorize individuals by their race. It is human instinct to judge people by their appearance. However, race should not be a part of a person’s character. Due to stereotypes, it is a norm for society to classify one by the color of their skin, or the nationality their ancestors originated from. I strongly think this is a crucial topic to America’s future. America’s fate is in the hands of future generations. Without education and equality of all nationalities, our country will plummet. By not educating people because of their skin color or income, the U.S. loses many opportunities. My research question for my paper is, “How can race and socioeconomic status shape low-income students’ academic success?” A person may have the ability to find the
cure to cancer, create world peace, etc. According to me, everyone should have the chance to earn an education no matter a person’s ethnicity.

While writing my paper I will research the statistics of graduations within low income communities verse wealthy or middle class districts. I will also analyze how growing up in poverty can affect a child’s success in their academics. I will also discuss possible solutions to the negative cycle of poverty that affects education. Racism and education have always conflicted. To find my information, I will use UIUC online library, EBSCO host, and a print source from one of the libraries on campus. With these sources I will look for Academic Journals or Periodicals. Although while researching I would prefer to use Academic Journals. To find my information I will use multiple intersecting terms, such as: education/school, poverty, racism, ethnicity, etc.

Although this is a crucial topic in America, it can become very controversial. Due to the controversy of this topic, it may become difficult to find credible sources, rather then opinions. This can make it difficult because I am trying to write a factual research paper of what may happen in the future of America. To overcome this, I will make sure that the sources I use has been verified as a credible resource. This is also a very broad topic which can become difficult to keep my research particularly on how classifying poverty by race can effect a child’s academic success and future. To overcome this challenge, I will use specific terms and be very selective of my sources.
Annotated Bibliography

Working Thesis: Judging someone’s intelligence by the color of their skin or economic status can limit the academic success of future generations.


“We would like to offer two simple, but profound, propositions:

1. The question of race in America cannot be understood without reference to assets.

2. The racial divide in America cannot be overcome without policies and actions that enable black Americans to build assets” (Bynum).

I started my paragraph out with these question because this articles whole message is based on these two questions. A person should not be classified off of their physical appearance or wealth status. However, America classifies people by material items. This article specifically talks about the inequality between African Americans and Caucasians in America and the difference between the treatment these ethnicities receive, especially in education. When people have assets it is human nature to feel power and control. Power can be an evil thing to human beings. Due to how important material items are to Americans it classifies people’s place in society, especially in education.

This article strongly supports my thesis on how classification by socioeconomic status can effect a child’s academic success. It also discusses how the color of someone’s
skin or what material objects a person owns should not be apart of judging a person’s potential in life. This was a very informative article that gave solutions to help the less fortunate build assets in society. However, I would not consider the author to be an expert on the topic, due to his other writing on ESCOB. He has published articles of multiple topics, but I believe that he just dabbles in everything. This was published in an academic journal that has been peer reviewed.

Heyneman, Stephen P. "On The International Dimension of Education And Social Justice."


This source was not particularly about poverty in America, but poverty all around the world. It explains how equal educational opportunities should be given to all children. All children should receive a high education no matter their ethnicity or country they reside in. It also discusses education funding in America. In America local Property taxes is how schools function financially. Which entails wealthy areas are most likely to have a higher education with more opportunities, while low-income districts have less access to tax money.

The most influential part of this article to me was regarding the Convention on the Rights of the Children and learning about how low the budget for education is in America. The Convention on the Rights of the Children required multiple countries to give all children equal educational opportunities. It had seven rules that I strongly agreed with. However, I do not agree with how low the budget for education is in America. In
my opinion America should prioritize education at a higher level. This source was published in an academic journal, which has been peer reviewed. I would consider the author of this article to be an expert. He has written multiple articles regarding this topic. He also seems to be educated on the effects of poverty has on education.


This source discusses how poverty impacts the education of many youths. The environment of low-income children causes many to lose their self-worth. It also expresses how classifying by ethnicity can discourage young children of bright educational futures. This article offers multiple solutions to hopefully one-day end this negative cycle of poverty and education.

In my opinion, this article was very helpful and knowledgeable while researching how classifying poverty by race can implicate education levels of future generations. I strongly agreed with this source. The solution given in this article could possible end the negative cycle of poverty. While reading I learned quite a bit about how the environment of a child in poverty can be one of the biggest implications on their education. I believe this article strongly supports my thesis. Also, has also been published in an academic journal that has been peer reviewed. Although the authors of this article are very knowledgeable and have written multiple articles, I would not consider them an expert on poverty conflicting with education, based on this article alone.

This article talks about how the process of funding schools in America take many opportunities away from children in poverty. The children that need generous school resources have the least access. It discussed the challenges youth of low-income households face and the hardships that have to be overcome to succeed academically. It also states what school should be, a place were all children receive encouragement and confidence in their abilities.

I strongly agree with this source’s opinion. I do not think that any child should be treated differently or given fewer opportunities due to their socioeconomic status or ethnicity. Many people do not realize the abilities children of poverty are capable, because most do not give them the chance to prove they are not where they come from. This was published in an academic journal and peer reviewed. I also do think the author, Joseph Jr., Alfred L., is an expert on the conflicting issues between education, poverty, and socioeconomic status.


This source is another section of the print source I found at the library. This part of the book discusses a numerous amount of personal encounters of how poverty effects youth’s success in school. It talks about the hardships of growing up in a low-income
neighborhood and the attitude young children have of just trying to get through school. Many students become frustrated by the idea of given an opportunity to succeed, yet cynical about their education capabilities.

I chose this source because it was very moving while reading about the hardships children of poverty face. I have always been fortunate to be in private schooling, with a mother that has motivated me to be the best I can be. I have always had a strong opinion on this topic, although after reading this source particularly it has made me passionate on equality in school systems. This is a scholarly source by the author and publisher of this book. In my opinion, the author of this section is an expert. Not only has he educated himself, but he has also experience these hardships.


This book has many essays. I have chosen to use this book as my source because it talks about how the socioeconomic status of individuals is a significant correlation to the academic success of youth. It also argues that the teachers and peers of students have a large impact on a child’s education. Along with the role models of children their environment can also effect a child’s ability to succeed in school. This source bases its information off statistics and actual encounters of people who were raised in low-income households.
I am very happy that it was a requirement to search for a source in the library. The book that I chose was not only full of valuable information, but also an eye opener to reality. This source has credible statistics and personal encounters as examples. I became very intrigued, yet surprised while reading about how severe teacher expectation and the poverty environment has on a youth’s academic success. This book is a scholarly source and in my opinion the authors are experts. Both Kincheloe and Steinberg are highly educated on how poverty conflicts with education.


This article discussed the educational disparities in morality, particularly on non-Hispanics, Blacks, and Whites. Although there are so many opportunities out there for all students to take advantage of due to socioeconomic status, gender roles, and racism the education gap is increasing. Not becoming educated or valuing any morals will not only hurt that person, but also society. Not giving equal education because of a person’s physical appearance or class in society will effect America’s future.

I have mixed emotions with his article. There many things that I agree with, yet others that I strongly disagree with. Most of the information from this resource was credible and helpful while I was narrowing my topic. This has been published in an academic journal, with a peer review. Although this article was knowledgeable and
helpful while writing my paper, I do not think this author is a specialist on how poverty is classified by race which is effecting education levels in America.


The main point of this source is to continue the need for race-conscious admissions policies and race-neutral policies in the education system. This source claims that race still matters and is still an issue in today’s society. It also discussed how social class should not be a part of a person’s identity. It proves with multiple studies that even when children have equal economic statuses race can cause separation. Park states that an education will not only benefit the person earning the degree, but also society. Many people do not realize the opportunities that have slipped away due to not education everyone equally.

After researching what race-conscious admission policies and race-neutral policies are, I realized how important this source was to my research paper. Not only does it strongly support my thesis, that ethnicity and socioeconomic class should not be the reason for a person to not receive equal education opportunities but it proves that by multiple studies. This source has also been published as an academic journal and peer reviewed. The author of this article seems to be knowledgeable about education levels in poverty, although based on this article I do not think she is a specialist.

This source discusses how the government has effected child in poverty academic success. Like other sources this one also claims that teacher expectations and home life are crucial components to children’s success in school. This article argues that the government has failed child of poverty and color. It also argues that teachers need more freedom in developing curriculums to motivate students, especially of low-incomes, to achieve high expectations in life.

Most people do not realize how important a teacher can be in a student’s life. A child could have no encouragement to better themselves from their home life. However, if a teacher is willing to donate their time to encourage and push their students out of the negative cycle of poverty, they should receive that freedom. I strongly agree with almost any solution to end poverty and education issues. I believe that if teacher takes their time to help someone in high achievements, it may show children of poverty that they can trust and that they are more then where they come from.