

Study Questions, Week 13

Topic for the Week: Social Institutions: Education

Readings for the Week:

Society: The Basics, Chapter 14 (pp. 368 – 382)

Sociological Footprints, Chapters 27 (Gracey) and 29 (Kozol)

Questions:

- (1) How does *education* differ from *schooling*? How does schooling differ in low-income and high-income countries? What are some reasons for these differences?
- (2) What are the primary *functions* of education? How do these functions differ in high-income and low-income settings?
- (3) How does education produce or reproduce *social inequality*? Identify several educational policies, and trace their outcomes in terms of equality.
- (4) How does *public* and *private* education differ in the United States? Describe the variety of private educational institutions in the U.S.
- (5) What factors account for the differences in *educational achievement* by race and gender?
- (6) Identify problems in public schools, and explain how they affect individuals and the institution of education. Illustrate these problems with examples drawn from the articles in the reader.
- (7) What is meant by "*cooling out*" the poor? Do you believe rich and poor kids are treated differently in schools? Why?
- (8) What will be the important educational issues in the 21st century? How will these shape society in the future?
- (9) What is the function of kindergarten in our educational system? Explain how kindergarten classes fulfill this function, using concrete examples.
- (10) Many problems in public schools begin outside the classroom. Explain the effects that problems in families, neighborhoods, and governments have on classrooms in different public schools.