Examining your school

I attended Kings Fork High school in Suffolk, Virginia. I lived in Suffolk, Virginia all my life. The racial composition of this school is 62 % black, 28 % white, 4 % Hispanic, 5 % being two or more races, and 1 % Asian, Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian. The racial composition is disturbing. 100 % White students were in the gifted & talented composition compared to the other surroundings school. The other surrounding schools had black students and white students in the gifted & talented section. However, majority of the students in the gifted & talented section were White students. Overall, the gifted and talented composition stayed high with white students and out of school suspension stayed high with black students. Another thing I found interesting was that free/reduced lunch is higher in non-white students. Interestingly, the AP courses were higher in Black students than any other group. The racial composition of the disciplinary measures was made of majority black students being 87 % Black students, 9 % White students, 1 % Hispanic, and 4 % two or more races.

Examining where you lived during your high school years

Median Income: 35, 211

Cost Of Living Index: 100.7

College Degree: 13.5

Professional: 27.3

White %: 46.8

Black %: 49.5

Asian %: 0.5

Hispanic Ethnicity %: 1.2

This area is higher/lower on different measures, such as the cost of living here being higher than the national average. The data confirms my experience at this location. It is expensive living in this area. Rent for a 3-bedroom house is $1700.

Sociological imagination

I grew up in a low-income family. Where we lived, it seemed that the area was also low-incomed, compared to other areas. The houses were much older in my area, such as being historic. My best friend lived in a suburban area with nicer houses then what I had surrounded by me. I know how it feels to go through hard times. I feel that those experiences have shaped me into a great person and made me more appreciative of the things that I have now. I am appreciative, I do not judge others, and I empathize with others who came from the struggle like myself. I am in a great position in life living in a home with my husband and children I used to dream of, driving a nice car I used to wish I had, and overall being married coming from being raised by a single parent. The high school that I went to was good and I had great experiences there. The teachers were awesome. I feel that by having such a positive experience in high school, this made me want more in life, such as going to college. The school that I attended provides fewer opportunities for someone of my race. Where I lived, it was an impoverished area, such as living paycheck to paycheck. My mom always made sure that I had everything that I needed, such as nice clothes, shoes, warm food, etc., but money would be tight a lot. This meant, no family vacations. I think this had an influence on my life experiences, such as becoming resilient and not bragging about the things that I have. I think the life experiences of those around me may have not been so good. For example, there were some kids who used to get into trouble a lot on the bus. This could include different factors such as bad parenting, absent parents, drugs, etc. The positive environment that I was surrounded by impacted my life experiences. The positive environment was being away from where I grew up. I would often visit my best friend that lived in the suburbs every weekend, and cousins who also lived in the suburbs. Growing up, I had two older brothers and I was the only girl. I did not like going outside, due to the rough neighborhood. I think that’s why my mom sent me away on the weekends to have fun with my best friend and cousins. This could impact patterns of inequality based on low-income individuals being placed in one section, such as downtown. I grew up in the downtown area, which was normally viewed as rough. My best friend lived in the uptown area. Income equality can also make others live in a not-so-great place because it’s more affordable.

This assignment has helped me achieve inclusive learning goals/diversity and inclusion goals by understanding social inequality and its factors and wanting to make a change. I can use what I have learned in this assignment to make myself more marketable to a future employer by showing them how educated I am when it comes to social inequality. I am aware of any biases and prejudices that me exist. I can also use ways to promote social equality, such as promoting training on social inequality.