

Social Location

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Social Location

Everyone has a social location, it describes where we “fit” into society based on characteristics of who we are as individuals. These characteristics that I am talking about do not have to be something negative, but vice versa it does not mean it is always going to be positive. Characteristics that influence our social location include and are not limited to: age, household income, and speech impediments. The three that influence who I am as a person the most are the three I previously mentioned.

Age has a major influence on my social location, especially on the fact that I just recently turned eighteen and now have so many new possibilities and opportunities. At this age, in society, I am now considered an adult which brings upon my right to vote or even sign up for the military. However, I still live at home and I am considered a child at home. Asking for permission to go out from my father is still a must, as well as asking for a time to be home. I’m now stuck at a crossroads of being considered an adult by society, but being treated as a child by the people around me and those who are older than I am.

Household income has impacted my social location detrimentally, as my family is not well off. As a kid growing up in a household of low income, I couldn’t easily participate in things with my peers, whether it was gaming or just extracurricular activities. I used to work with a family friend of ours to make a little cash to participate in sports teams at our school with my peers. I was and still am considered an outcast among my peers because I don’t have the money to do such activities that others believe to be normal. It wasn’t always negative though, as I was pushed harder to do well in school so I could be able to get the same opportunities as my peers who didn’t have to worry about working for them. I learned many ways to go about doing work alone and not having to rely on others. I gained work ethics that no one my age normally

would have. I wish I grew up in a household where money wasn't a problem, but I am grateful for it none the less.

Lastly, growing up and still having a lisp has been very impactful on how I fit in with others, as I was joked. For a while I struggled with speaking up in class when I had a question, as I knew people would laugh at me. It created a barrier to who I am as a person in my social and academic life, as people seemed to care more about the way I spoke rather than what I was saying or feeling. I am forever grateful for it as I made many friends with the people around me who were also considered “weird.” They made me realize that being the way I am and growing up how I did doesn't dictate who I am, it is the way I live in the present.