

Alia Manning

Professor Freeman

SW 331 Chapter 4 Activity

Due October 9, 2020 11:59pm

College Success and Cultural Capital

Cultural capital evaluates the validity of culture (i.e., language, values, norms, and access to material resources) on success and achievement. You can measure your cultural capital by examining the cultural traits and patterns of your life. The following questions examine student values and beliefs, parental and family support, residency status, language, childhood experiences focusing on access to cultural resources (e.g., books) and neighborhood vitality (e.g., employment opportunities), educational and professional influences, and barriers affecting college success (Kennedy 2012).

1. What are the most important values or beliefs influencing your life?
 - The most important values that influenced my life is the freedom of expression, value of time, self- awareness, good health, knowledge of power, accomplishments, family, school and responsibilities. The belief that influenced my life would be having faith in God.
2. What kind of support have you received from your parents or family regarding school and your education?
 - I receive support for my mom regarding my education because she helps me better understand an assignment when I don't fully understand it. She checks over my essays sometimes. She wants updates on my grades in my classes. My mom encourages me to keep thriving, feel loved and she keep communication open.

3. How many generations has your family lived in the United States?
 - I believe that my family has lived in the United States for 3 generations.
4. What do you consider your primary language? Did you have any difficulty learning to read or write the English language?
 - My primary language is English. I don't have any difficulty learning to read and write in English language.
5. Did your family have more than fifty books in the house when you were growing up? What type of reading materials were in your house when you were growing up?
 - Yes, we had about eighty-five books in the house growing up. My mom believed in teaching her children how to read and comprehend words. The type of reading material that was in my house were like comics, newspapers, poetry, encyclopedias, dictionaries, books they write on and play scripts.
6. Did your family ever go to art galleries, museums, or plays when you were a child? What types of activities did your family do with their time other than work and school?
 - Yes, my family went to art galleries, museums and plays when I was child. The type of activities my family did rather work, and school was playing card games, football, volleyball, videogames and word games.
7. How would you describe the neighborhood where you grew up?
 - I lived in the country. My neighborhood was quiet because my house was isolated and had thousands of acres of land. In my neighborhood we can walk around anywhere, and you wouldn't need to look over your shoulder. You can play with other kids and go to other people's houses and ask for like simple things like sugar and they would give it to

you because we were all cool and had respect for each other. There was no racism in my neighborhood because we all were family literally.

8. What illegal activities, if any, were present in the neighborhood where you grew up?

- There were not much illegal activities at all other than selling weed or either smoking some weed on the porch with some family and friends.

9. What employment opportunities were available to your parents or family in the neighborhood where you grew up?

- The employment opportunities where outside the neighborhood for my parents like in downtown Columbia area. My mom is well-educated and has her degrees. She worked for the Commission for The Blind that is a state job. My dad is not educated I think he barley graduated high school if he even did. My dad has his certification in truck driving, towing and mechanics like working on cars. My dad works for a truck driving company he is a cargo truck driver he does in state and out of state. There isn't much employment opportunities in the country you must go to diffident areas for that. In the country, you can either work at the factory's, gas stations, barbershops, small restaurants and grocery store.

10. Do you have immediate family members who are doctors, lawyers, or other professionals? What types of jobs have your family members had throughout their lives?

- Yes, I do have immediate family members that have prestige jobs such as nursing, doctor and lawyer. The type of jobs my family members had throughout their lives would be like retail, commercial, operational / technical, professional, supervisory and managerial.

11. Why did you decide to go to college? What has influenced you to continue or complete your college education?

- I decided to go to college because I wanted a high education and achieve my dreams in Military Social Work. Also, since my mom has her degrees and looking at how successful she was plus making a great salary I wanted to follow her and do the same. It's not really what influenced me to continue it's primarily who influenced me to complete my college education. My mom influenced me because watching her struggle with her mental health and keep pushing to make ends meet encourages me to not give up on my dreams no matter how hard it gets.

12. Did anyone ever discourage or prevent you from pursuing academics or a professional career?

- Yes, I had friends discourage me from continuing with my Computer Engineer degree before switching to Social Work. My friends were telling me how many people dropped out of the major and how it is going to get extremely hard to the point your GPA will drop, and I won't be on scholarship anymore.

13. Do you consider school easy or difficult for you?

- I consider school to be easy for me for the most part because I never really struggled with school.

14. What has been the biggest obstacle for you in obtaining a college education?

- The biggest obstacle in obtaining a college education is time management, procrastination, and balancing working long hours and being a full-time college student.

15. What has been the greatest opportunity for you in obtaining a college education?

- My greatest opportunity in obtaining a college education is that it expands my knowledge base, thinking more critically, becoming more open-minded, volunteering and

internships. Also, it gave me personal growth, improved my self-esteem and gave me a successful pathway to advancement.

16. How did you learn to navigate educational environments? Who taught you the “ins” and “outs” of college or school?

- I learned to navigate the educational environment by following my surroundings like classmates, professors and friends. Asking questions if I don't know something or how to get somewhere, basically communicating. My peers taught me in the “ins” and “outs” of college like the rules and regulations such as what to do and what not to do. Who date who and who not to really associate yourself with etc. An example of what I'm would be like say that a friend is in Greek life and she pledges AKA. The rule is to not seat on the outside AKA's benches if you are not an AKA because that's a sign of disrespect plus you will be talked about throughout college and lose numerous of friends.