**Introduction**:

* As we all know, the United States is divided into many different social structures based on factors such as: Socioeconomic status, race, and even gender. Looking through the lens of fairness the difference in these social classes are extremely polarized and unfair because of the lack of opportunities that are provided for those with lower incomes, as well as how unequally wealth is distributed among these groups. We see unequal opportunities and living conditions based on different social class even though they are there based on their upbringing. The large economic gap in the United States is simply unfair.

**Body 1:**

* To give an overview of social class in the United States, the article “race, wealth, and class identification in 21st century America.” Published in 2016 by sociology quarterly talks about how different philosophers as well as other Americans perceive social class and status.
* “Marx (1978) and Weber (1978), both theorists described classes as objective positions in economic systems, with the division between those who own property and those who are property less as the central aspect of the class structure.”

 Ownership and Property

* Wright= 3 Dimensions of class
1. A property aspect
2. A skill/ or expertise
3. And authority
	* Skill plays a role in social class not just wealth or property
* These are all just theories
* The article also discusses the presence of subject and objective class
	+ Objective: One’s actual social status based on education, income etc.
	+ Subjective: One’s own perceived social class
	+ Taboo to be in the upper class
	+ Most people identify with their subject class more than their objective class.

**Body 2:**

* Social class is also portrayed greatly in the media. In movies, novels, and even music, social status is mentioned mostly as a sense of pride. Classism however can also give a false sense of how the social dynamic of the United States actually works.
* The article Counselors’ Social Class and Socioeconomic Status Understanding and Awareness.” Published in 2016 by the journal of counseling and development. Gives a small look into what kind of programs are on television and how it differs from the reality of social class.
	+ **“**Popular culture, especially television, has defined what different social class groups are like. The television shows The Beverly Hillbillies (Simon & Ransohoff, 1962) depicted what happens when people who are poor gain entry into the upper social class.”
	+ Tv shows depict social class as a starting point that will allow one to continue to grow and rise in status.
	+ In reality this is a rarity.
* The article How Unequal Is the United States? Adolescents’ Images of Social Stratification published in 2019 by child development says: “However, national surveys reveal that only 42% of Americans currently believe that anyone can achieve success through hard work.” (Flanagan 957).
	+ In reality it is hard to rise in social class.
	+ Once you are at the bottom it is hard to rise out if it.
	+ The Article also touches on the idea that children born into low income families will stay in this class for the rest of their lives
* It is unfair that a child who is born in a low-income household has little to no opportunity to rise in status because they are born into limited resources.
	+ For example, can’t afford education.

**Body 3:**

* Because of the polarization and economic gap between social classes in the United states, there are some very long-lasting negative effects on children in low income households.
* The article “Socioeconomic Status and Genetic Influences on Cognitive Development.” Published in 2017 by the Proceedings of the national academy of science of the United states of America says: “The animating idea is that social disadvantage compromises the extent to which a child’s genetic potential is realized. As a result, the ultimate influence of genetic endowment is lower in these environments, which also implies that higher heritability estimates reflect improved social conditions”
	+ The environment outweighs genetics.
	+ A child’s environment can stunt a child’s cognitive growth.
	+ A child could be born with the best genetic advantages but if the child is born into an environment where the parents are not around much or to parents who have to focus primarily on providing for their families, the child can become delayed in their cognitive development.
* The article “Family Resources and Parenting Quality: Links to Children's Cognitive Development Across the First 3 Years.” Published in 2008 by child development says: there are three aspects of parenting
	+ Sensitivity: A parent’s responsiveness to a child’s emotional needs as a constant emotional connection between the parent and the child.
	+ Cognitive Stimulation: A parent’s role in the education of their child. Do they read with the child often? Do they help the child with schoolwork?
	+ Warmth: How the parent helps the child learn.
		- Economic stability and a child’s mental capability are directly related.
		- Often times in lower-class families, one of these three things could be missing resulting in the stunt of cognitive growth as well as language learning.
* Disclaimer: This does not make one a bad parent. Because some of their needs are not being met, some parents must first focus on how to meet their basic needs before they can focus on other things like reading and writing.
* In the article Children and the Elderly: Wealth inequality among America’s Dependents published in 2018 by demography says
	+ Children are not given sufficient resources to thrive especially in low-income families.
	+ Some resources are provided but it rarely helps the lowest 10% of the population.

Conclusion:

 it is hard for a child who is born into a poor family to rise in status. This is unfair because they had no choice in how they would be raised and what kind of family they would be brought up by. As a result, the United States will continue to have an increasingly polar social class system with little room to rise in status. So, what can we do about this issue? Better policy should be implemented to help those who are struggling financially. This will not only help with “money issues”, but it could also give a young child the jump start he/she needs to continue to gain knowledge and to assist in their cognitive growth and learning ability. This is definitely easier said than done but assisting those with financial needs could also aid in

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