

Soc.320 / Hicks Marlowe
Discussion Exercise #1
Context/Comparison of Your Family Experience
(Take-Home Exercise)

Name:
(5 points)

Every person's family experience is somewhat different. A good way to see these differences is to compare your own experience as a member of a family with those of someone whose situation is/was quite different. To start you thinking critically and analytically about the family as a social institution I would like for you to discuss how the following factors have affected your own family experience. Your discussion should compare your situation with that of another person. The information for this comparison can come from personal conversations or from data with which you are familiar (e.g., material covered in another class). You should type your discussion (double-space, regular margins), and turn it in at our next class meeting.

Note: Your discussion should not simply list the differences between your family and the family of the person with whom you are comparing. Show how these differences affect family dynamics.

Factors to include in your discussion:

- historical (e.g., you versus your parents/grandparents)
- racial/ethnic/cultural
- geographic (nation, region)
- social status (e.g., different child-rearing practices, expectations, privileges)
- family structure (nuclear/extended, two-parent, two-parent divorced, single-parent, etc.)
- family size (only child, siblings)
- birth order (e.g., first, middle, last)
- sex/gender
- religion