Reflection

 This class has been really informative, although there was a lot of information from last semester, and it was useful for me at least because it refreshed my memory on things I didn’t remember from theory. I really enjoyed the article by Khan. I liked how he said that experiences matter more and that hierarchies are natural and that we should use them to our advantage. I use to think that they were negative and it wouldn’t allow me to succeed in life knowing this makes me feel more confident. He also made me understand why individuals who are privileged talk to the janitors and it’s only to be at ease. I thought that it meant they cared but after reading this I know now that they only speak to them because it shows their power. For some reason that really annoys me, maybe because my mother is a janitor and I would like to think that there is some good in people. In our class discussion it has really opened my eyes about parents being only concerned about the well being of their own children, while disregarding the rest of the student body. I always thought that these AP classes were for individuals who really tried hard and got grades, but now that I better understand I know it is a form of segregation between the wealthy and the impoverished. It’s interesting to me that these parents are so concerned with everything, such as grades, but not what type of education their children are receiving or if their children are even retaining the information. In our class discussion, it was mentioned that our education should be equal for everyone and that the school system should get rid of these gifted and talented classes, but these parents are only concerned about their children. They are worried that if things were to be equal that their children will be punished in some form but in reality it is helping the individuals who do poorly in school get to the same level as those in the AP classes. It is not hindering them from attaining any type of information. It is just improving the education for everyone else. I really enjoy this class, and our class discussions always make me think about things more deeply.

Another concept I thought was interesting was the self-fulfilling prophecy because it is really true that when a teacher or advisor tells you that you are bad at math and you should not go into a field that requires math, you start to believe that you truly are not good at math. People should be more educated and realize that these negative comments do stick to an individual and that they do hinder you from trying something new. Another concept I did not know anything about was the hidden curriculum how teachers are training you to be prepared for the capitalist society. I think it’s sad that we can’t be creative and be critical thinkers because we have to follow the rules and regulations set up by our society. We should change this and allow the future generation break this cycle and create a more creative atmosphere for the students. I thought it was sad when we discussed in class that the teachers said they hated the first two months of schooling because the students didn’t know the rules. Children should be allowed to have freedom instead of having a hidden curriculum trying to shape kids into people they think they should be. Another thing I found interesting was how our school systems are preparing us for the roles we will take on in society when we get older. The wealthy get the better education and progress more, while the impoverished stay the same or move up slightly. Something I really enjoy in our class is the different opinion of our classmates although I may not agree with it. It shows me that everyone doesn’t understand people’s situations and that they think this way because they are more privileged then some of us. Overall I have learned a lot of things in your class and hope to learn some more and be able to reproduce knowledge instead of memorizing it.