

Laura Noren

My 8 Best Things

Dejah J.

I think I would consider myself upper middle class. I have been lucky enough to always be in this class. My mother grew up in a family that could be considered borderline upper middle class but since there were 4 children, money was always tighter than it was for other people so often she felt as though she were middle class. My father grew up in a situation where he felt it was lower middle class due to his father traveling a lot and four children in a tighter economic situation. Let me put it this way, he was eligible for full financial aid here for college.



I have many friends that are middle class and that can be considered upper class. Usually there is not much tension but in certain situations there are. I feel as though there is more tension with the upper class friends because they may not know that sometimes it seems as though they are flaunting their money but I think that is a common feeling from people who are in a lower class than their friends. Sometimes in situations I do feel guilty being more economically stable than some of my friends. For instance, I have a close friend who can be considered middle class and we were discussing going on vacation together and there was some tension since I did not realize that it was more financially difficult for her to do the things that we wanted to do. I think that class differences become a problem when people use them as power or don't realize people's sensitivity or embarrassment at being at a "lower" level.

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Maria T.

My sister and I talked about this and we both agree that we're definitely at least middle class. I've never wanted for anything in my entire life (within reason). I've lived a very comfortable life and I think that if my parents didn't have so many kids then they could easily be very upper middle class to upper class. In my memory we've always been the same class. My parents talk about being newly married or married with a couple of us kids and how everything had to be budgeted and how poor they were. But I think it's pretty typical young couple stuff. With each promotion my dad gets in the military there's more money and along with each promotion generally another kid came along (for awhile at least :)



I think I have lots of friends in lots of different socioeconomic classes. When I was younger, obviously I was very naive about these things and I think I still am. For instance one of my best friends from elementary school is very very well off and another is often completely broke. But all three of us still love each other dearly and it's never a factor. Also, one of my best friends in college is very well off and I never even realized it until after I knew her for two years. I don't think there's ever any tension...money is rarely a topic that comes up. I think that I'd always be more than willing to share or give anything I had to a friend and I think my friends would do the same for me. I always wonder what it would be like to be part of a different class. I mean I think a lot of people like to think what they would do if they had millions of dollars. But I know for sure that when I'm on my own later on in life that I want just enough money to get by comfortably. I think a big house would just be a big pain and I'd be too nervous to drive fancy cars but I would like to travel so I'm pretty happy just being middle class.

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Rachana O.

we were pretty poor when i was born. parents were both grad students, mostly paycheck to paycheck living. i am going to stay in the same class. we've been well off since i was maybe 5ish... no insurance when i was born, for example - i was born in a charity hospital. upper middle class now

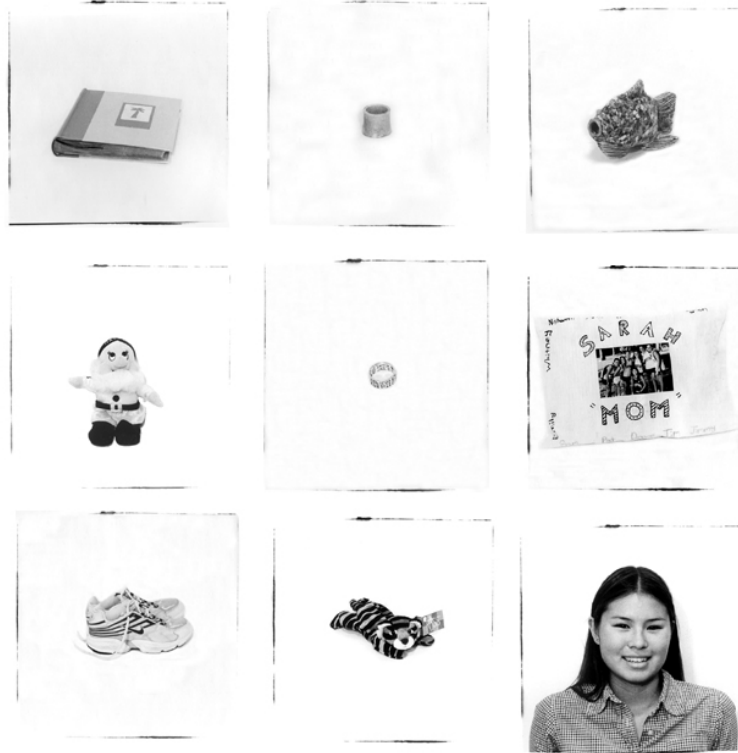


my friends are middle to upper middle class
i think class is a huge factor in educational and criminal disparity. but i
dont have much firsthand knowledge

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Sarah S.

I come from an upper middle class family. I'd pretty much say that I've always been in the same class. Unless the start up company that my dad works for does something amazing, then I pretty much see my family remaining in the same class. I guess I assume that this is the same class I will be a part of once I graduate, etc, since both of my parents have their PhD's from MIT.



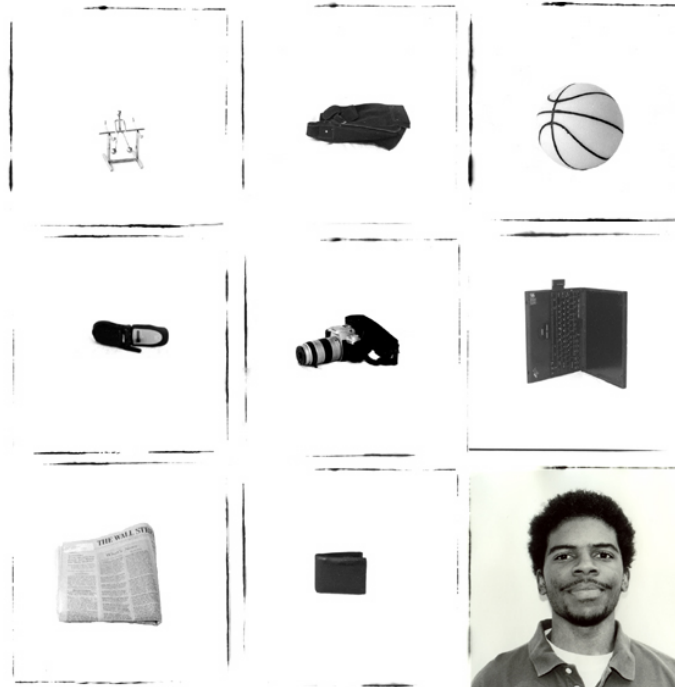
I have close friends who are in a different socioeconomic class. One of them, his mom doesn't work, his dad is a postal service worker that supports his family, his two aunts and his brother and sister. Class issues have never caused any tension, and he is probably one of the sweetest, most generous people I know.

I come from a little suburb where there is little diversity, and basically everyone gets a car when they get their license. I think sometimes class differences can make some people feel uncomfortable, but I don't think I would say it is a big problem.

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Simon L.

I would say that I am lower-middle class.. and maybe upper-lower (do they even make a distinction below middle ?? :)) I would however say that I am upwardly mobile I guess. At least in a monetary sense. I think earlier on in my life my family was not even middle class. but i guess after years of work etc.. they "own" a house and mess so that seems to be sort of a shift into the bottom of middle.



of course.. money is the central theme of american culture... with money (which i equate with class) comes endless opportunities. you have choice, freedom, options.. just so many intangible things. this becomes a problem, because those that have, want to keep what they have, and gain more while they're at it. you can look at so many issues in terms of class. school reform... essentially a class issue... they dont want to put money into failing schools, but still expect things to improve. this is on top of the fact that these urban schools already dont get as much as the surburban schools...basically politics at least today is class based...big government vs small government...higher taxes vs lower taxes...the thing is, that more and more...all influence is skewed toward those who have money, because they are giving to both political parties...so more and more you have an establishment run by those who "have", that protects the interests of those who "have".