

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

Characteristics that determine your social class

Money

- investments, e.g. stock & bonds
- inheritances
- allowances
- public assistance of any type
- coupons
- other wealth/assets
- did you get what you wanted or only what was needed
- pawned goods
- living paycheck to paycheck

Education

- level attained of self, siblings, parents
- literacy level
- private/public
- tutors
- financial aid, e.g. scholarships, grants, loans, bursaries
- types of books and other reading material in the home
- study in or out of province

Employment

- which parents worked
- what type of work, i.e. occupation
- hours of work, e.g. shift, part-time, full-time, overtime
- self-employed or salaried
- if children worked and where did their money go
- union or not

Housing

- rented or owned
- size of home and surrounding land
- number of floors of home
- second homes
- purpose, e.g. to live in or investment
- safety of neighbourhood/crime rate
- location, e.g. inner city, suburb, rural
- maintenance/repairs done by family or outside help
- abandoned buildings nearby

Food

- ate only at home
- ate with family together
- ate at restaurants, what kind of restaurants, how often
- prices on menu were or were not of concern
- foodstamps/coupons

Clothing

- new or 2nd hand
- name brand
- need or want

Shopping

- name brands
- no-name brands
- paid in cash or credit card or check
- coupons

Parents

- married
- divorced
- remarried
- adoption
- number of children

Transportation

- car, type, age, new or used, and how many
- repair and insurance payment covered by whom
- children got cars when turned a certain age
- public
- bicycle
- walking
- other forms of non-essential transportation, e.g. boats, snowmobiles

Health

- types of doctors
- dentists
- emergency room visits and/or family doctor
- public or private health insurance, type of coverage
- vision care
- "alternative" health care options

Sports

- need for equipment or not
- pool or basketball court at home

Domestic duties

- hired help
- which parent doing what chores
- children doing chores and receiving allowance or not
- childcare, babysitting

Church involvement

- which congregation

Furnishings

- type in home, new or used, style
- electronic goods, e.g. stereo, computers, appliances
- antiques
- china or silverware, special occasion items

Leisure activities

- after school
- hobby
- of parents and children
- private lessons, e.g. piano or tennis

Summer activities

- stay at home
- vacations
- camps

Vacation

- places stayed e.g. tents or motels or hotels
- where ate food, e.g. cooked own or ate out
- transportation, e.g. cars or flying
- visiting relatives or new places
- outside of Canada or "exotic" places