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Suggestions for the fourth paper
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Our fourth book, *Schooling in Capitalist America*, presents a criticism of American education based on an economic theory. The authors are Marxist economists. They are making theoretical assessments based on empirical evidence about the biases in American education. We have read two parts of the book. The first considers the contradictions in the ideas of advocates of education. The second describes how the structure of the economy reinforces those contradictions despite the best intentions of the reformers.

In writing your paper, you could focus on the main point the authors make in their book. In their book, they try to show that this renders the economic system stable. The class structure requires that the citizens believe the hierarchal division of labor is natural and necessary. Accordingly, they claim that the social relations of economic life are replicated in the educational system and in family life.

A simple approach for you to take is to explain how the authors try to prove their points. These include several steps: showing how Americans tended to conceive of the role of education in reducing social inequalities, explaining why the failure of the War on Poverty suggests their point, describing why the capitalist economy is at the root of the problem, evaluating the effects of education and intelligence on economic success, and determining how patterns of inequality reappear in all spheres of life. ch1
ch2
ch3
ch4

If you follow this approach be careful to do more than repeat what the authors tell you. You should compare it to another book we read. The strongest comparison is to *Learning to Labor* because Willis suggests that the students create their own culture in opposition to the schools' efforts to help them. Another option is *Learning to Go to School in Japan*. Although Peak does not follow a Marxist ideology, she shows that the schools reinforce the values of the society.

Since your paper is only 1200 words, you can trace the general lines of their argument and make the comparison without going into detail about any of them. Above I listed six points you might cover. Imagine limiting your paper to five pages typed double space in Times New Roman number 12 font with one inch margins. This would give you space for about ten paragraphs. Thus, you could have an introduction stating your theme, a paragraph for each point, a paragraph or two of comparison and a conclusion.

Please remember that you need not follow my suggestions so long as you meet the general criteria for grading. You have to show the following qualities: familiarity with the material, coherence, completeness, and thoughtfulness. In matters of form and style, the UD School of Education recommends that graduate classes follow the American Psychological Association's seventh manual of style. Please submit an electronic copy of your paper to Isidore when it is completed. The program, Turnitin, is designed to detect plagiarism. In addition, please give me a paper copy that I can grade.