

Think about how your social locations have influenced your behavior and ideas. Apply the sociological imagination to one aspect of your own life.

For example: I was born to a working class family. As a result education was not a priority in my family, especially for girls. My sisters and I were expected to marry and have children, not necessarily go to college. When it came time for me to graduate high school I applied to many colleges for admission. I was accepted to UCLA and UC Berkley. However, my parents didn't have money for tuition and thought I should just go the El Camino Junior College until I found a husband. If I had followed the path set out for me by my social location as a daughter in a working class family I never would have pursued a doctorate degree. I never would have become a professor.

So, what made the difference? It was my eighth grade English teacher that encourage me to read and to pursue education. I loved to read. Reading provided an escape from the "real world." Through reading I discovered that I had more choices than I thought. My social location in the public education system opened my mind to new ideas. This ultimately changed my behavior.

Okay. Now it's your turn.