|  |
| --- |
| **Class Assumptions, Beliefs, and Values**  |

As you work through the elements of worldview (e.g., assumptions, beliefs, values) in the table below, highlight the descriptor in each row that best describes the way you relate to others and to the world around you, how you think about things, and how you communicate your thoughts.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Relating to Others** | **Relating to Others** |
| Spontaneous | Structured order & planning |
| Relational | Objectively detached |
| Intense | Reserved |
| Community/family reliance  | Self-reliance/independence  |
| Friendliness | Privacy |
| Cooperation | Competition |
| **Relating to the World** | **Relating to the World** |
| Respect for authority/hierarchy | Egalitarian |
| Patience | Efficiency |
| Trauma is common | Trauma is avoided |
| Work is a means | Work is an end/identity |
| Sharing | Strong property rights |
| Contentment | Active problem solving |
| Marry earlier; more children | Marry later; fewer children |
| Lower class food, dress styles | Middle class food, dress styles |
| **Thinking/Perception** | **Thinking/Perception** |
| Subjective | Objective |
| Qualitative | Quantitative |
| Holistic | Analytical/compartmentalized |
| Experience/practical | Theoretical |
| Nonmaterially-minded | Materially-minded |
| Community | Individual |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Communication** | **Communication** |
| Honesty and directness | Politeness and tact |
| Oral tradition and storytelling | Written tradition |
| Simplified/slang vocabulary | Larger/standardized vocabulary |
| **Parenting** | **Parenting** |
| Issuing of directives | Negotiation |
| Simple, easy explanations | Dialogue and discussion |
| Following and trusting authority | Questioning of authority |
| Hierarchical | Egalitarianism |
| Free play | Structured activities |
| Respect | Entitlement |
| Independence | Dependency |

Add up the number of items you highlighted in each of these columns.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  **WORKING AND POVERTY CLASS** **# =**  | **UPPER AND MIDDLE CLASS** **# =**  |

Adapted from “Reconciliation across social class,” by A. Sears, 2015. [http://www.urbanministry.org/reconciliation-across-social-class.](http://www.urbanministry.org/reconciliation-across-social-class) Copyright 2015 by [Creative Commons](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/).

The final section on parenting is adapted from “Unequal childhoods: Class, race, and family life,” by A. Lareau, 2003. Copyright 2003 by the University of California Press.