

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>. Copyright 2015 by [Creative Commons](#).

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.