

Multicultural Education in a Pluralistic Society-  
Chapter 2: Class  
EDU 5105

In a class system, humans are not only separated by money, but in large part due to equal access to resources. President Kennedy envisioned a successful landing and return to earth from the moon. The technology to accomplish this was not on the horizon. Nevertheless, educational institutions across the nation rose up to the rest of the world to prove this was possible.

This single act also showed the inequality of educational systems. In a small town in the southern part of this country, three enterprising young men decided to take up the presidents' challenge to become astronauts. While their counterparts across town trained in a simulated aerospace environment, these three young men simulated going to the moon by training in a 1957 Ford station wagon in 110\* F temperatures, with the windows rolled up. They realized they had to endure severe heat in their voyage to the moon. Unlike their cross town counterparts, they were not familiar with air conditioning.

During the winter, they trained in the back seat of the same car in short sleeves, preparing for the coldness of outer space. They had not been exposed to central heat. How their cross town counterparts launched laboratory raised animals in perfect replicas of the rockets of the day.

The Sherrhollomooses scraped their pennies together and purchased a turtle that they launched in their homemade rocket which was made from a paper towel roll stuffed with potassium nitrate, sulfur and charcoal. They made a capsule with sponge rubber and a parachute that safely brought the turtle back to earth. When the cross town students dissected their lab animals at the local hospital, the Sherrhollomooses opened their turtle to check the effect of space travel, only to discover the turtles' internal organs are connected to the exoskeleton. This instantly turned it into turtle soup. This scenario clearly exhibits that a lack of access to adequate facilities adds to the unequal playing field. The Sherrhollomooses could not play with their cross town rivals because the playing field was not equal.