



Sociology Virtual Learning

High School/Lesson 23

Status

April 22, 2020



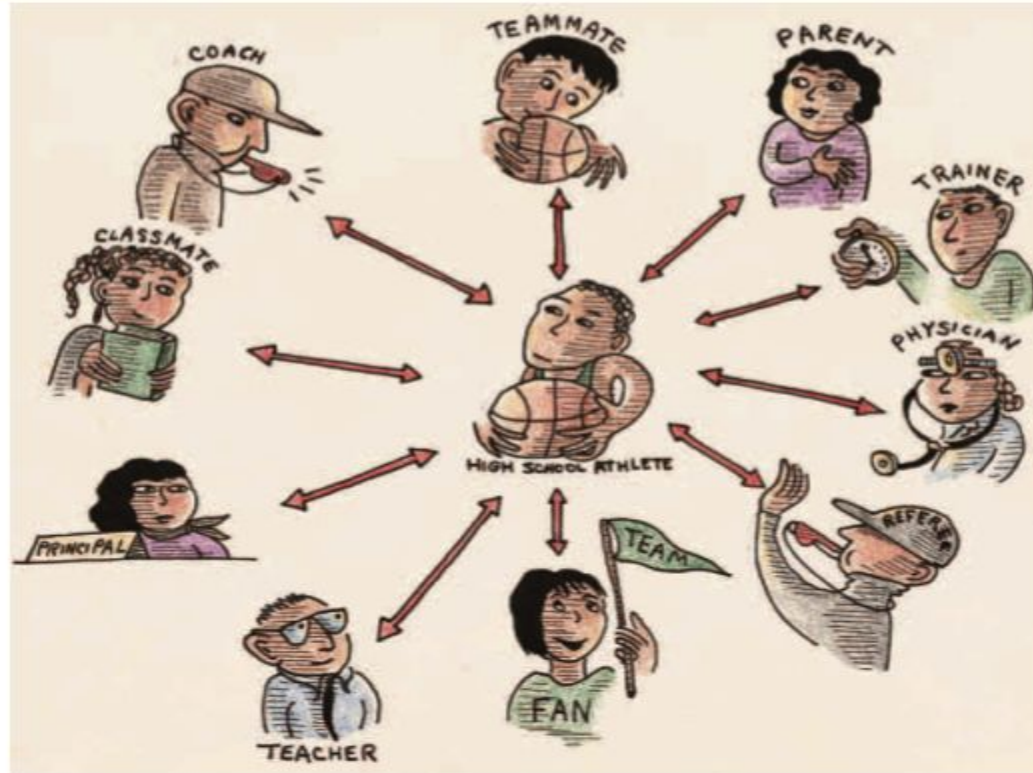
Sociology

Lesson: April 22, 2020

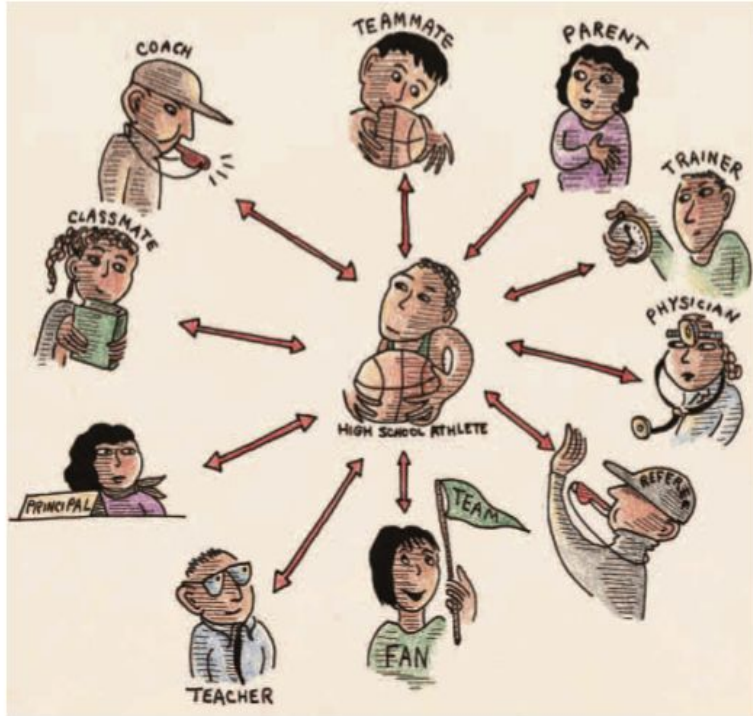
Objective/Learning Target: The student will understand the concept of status and how it relates to social structure.

Warm Up:

Examine this figure:



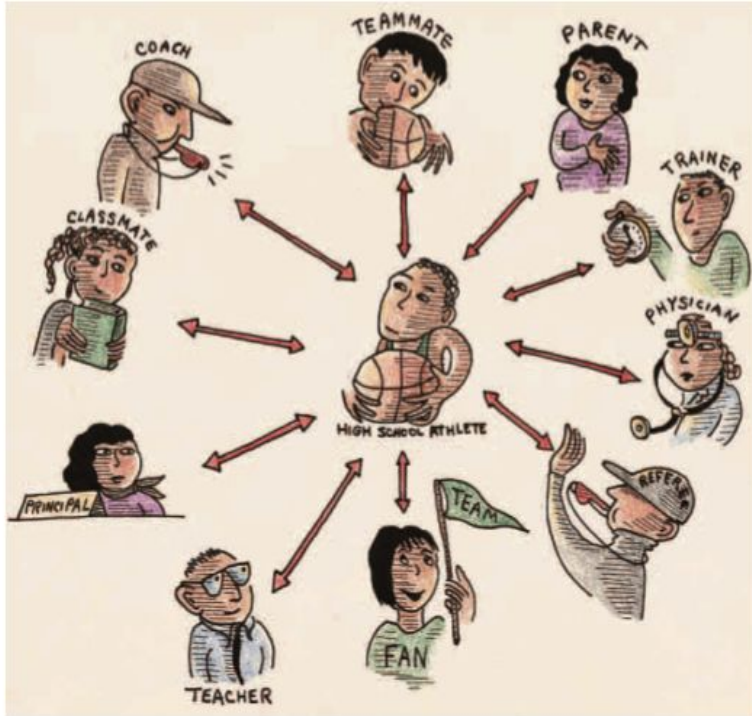
Warm Up:



What is it saying about society and status?

How can you relate to the person in the middle?

Warm Up (Possible Answers/Discussion)



What is it saying about society and status? **Social Statuses do not exist in isolation. All statuses are interrelated.**

How can you relate to the person in the middle? **Answers will vary.**

Essential Vocabulary:

Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary words and refer back to them as needed:

Social Structure- the underlying patterns of relationships in a group

Status- a position a person occupies within a group

Essential Vocabulary:

Ascribed Status- a position that is neither earned or chosen, but assigned

Achieved Status- a position that is earned or chosen

Essential Vocabulary:

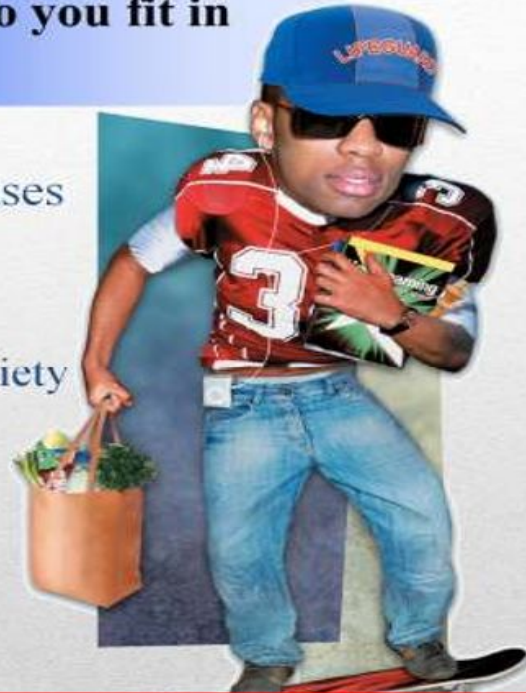
Status Set- all of the statuses that a person occupies at a particular time

Master Status- a position that most strongly affects most other aspects of a person's life

Lesson/Activity:

Where do you fit in society?

- Each individual occupies several statuses
- Statuses are ways of defining
 - Where individuals fit in society
 - How individuals relate to others in society



Lesson/Activity:

Ascribed Status-

- Assigned according to qualities beyond a person's control
- Are not based on an individual's effort
 - Examples:
 - Inherited traits
 - Age
 - Family heritage/cultural background
 - Birth order

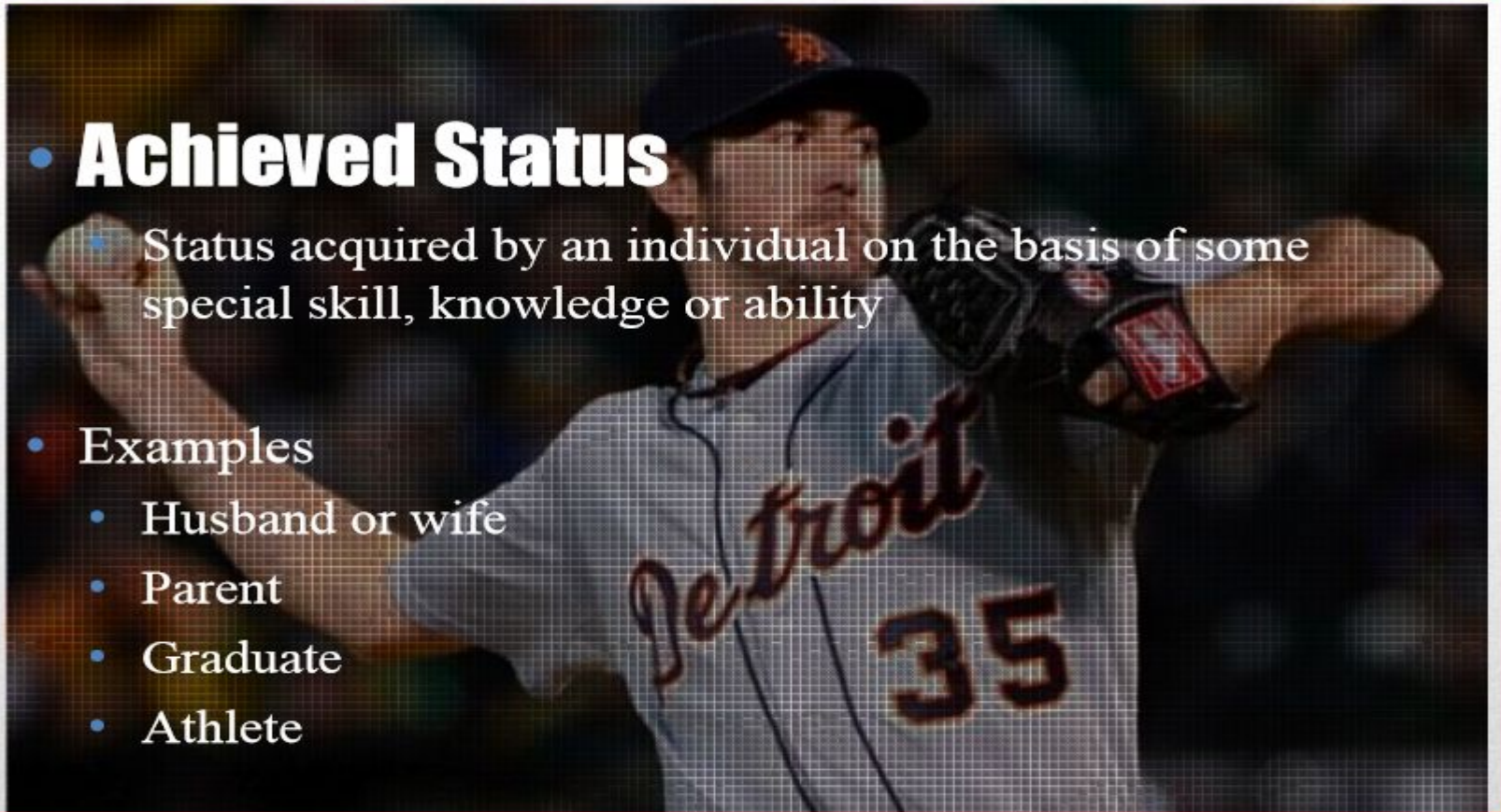
Lesson/Activity:

- **Achieved Status**

- Status acquired by an individual on the basis of some special skill, knowledge or ability

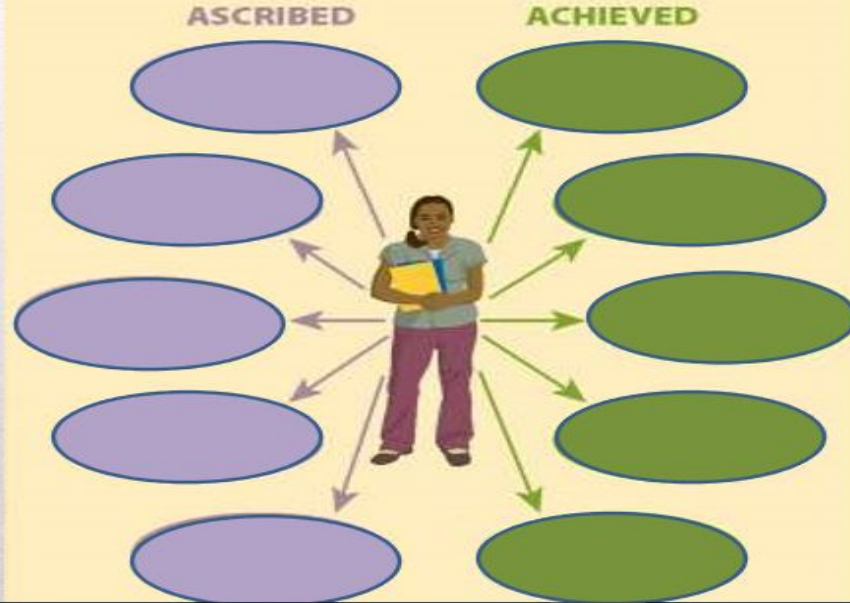
- **Examples**

- Husband or wife
- Parent
- Graduate
- Athlete



Lesson/Activity:

Status describes an individual's position in a group or society. Since individuals belong to more than one group, they have many different statuses. Statuses can be ascribed—given to an individual regardless of his or her abilities—or achieved—gained through the individual's talent, effort, or accomplishments.



Lesson:

- The status that plays the greatest role in shaping a person's life and determining his or her social identity
- Can be either ascribed or achieved
 - U.S., usually achieved
- Changes over time



Master Status

Lesson:

After you have read through the lesson slides, answer the following questions on your paper:

- 1. What is the difference between achieved and ascribed status?***
- 2. What are some examples of symbols that could reveal a person's status?***

Possible Answers:

1. ***What is the difference between achieved and ascribed status?*** Ascribed statuses are assigned at birth & can't usually be changed. Achieved statuses can be fluid throughout one's life.
2. ***What are some examples of symbols that could reveal a person's status?*** material culture- (cars, clothes, jewelry...) nonmaterial culture-values, beliefs...

Practice:

1. Make a T- Chart on your paper. Label one side “Ascribed Statuses” and the other “Achieved Statuses”
2. Now, choose a famous person that you admire. Maybe it’s an author, a musical artist, an athlete. Fill out the T- Chart about that person’s statuses.

Example:

Michelle Obama



Ascribed:

African American
Female
Daughter
Sister

Achieved:

lawyer
college dean
First Lady of the United States
wife
mother

Practice:

1. Make a T- Chart on your paper. Label on side “Ascribed Statuses” and the other “Achieved Statuses”
2. Think about your own statuses and complete the chart. (Answers will vary)

Reflection:

What is your Master Status and why? Has this changed as you have aged? Do you feel that your current Master Status will be the same in 5 years?

Additional Resources:

1. [Article- Achieved Status vs. Ascribed Status](#)
2. [Article- How Does Your Master Status Define You?](#)
3. [Short Video Clip- Ascribed vs. Achieved](#)