

Political Purposes of Schooling

- ✍✍ Major political goal of public schooling is to educate future citizens and political leaders
- ✍✍ Who should define what type of values or good citizenship that is taught in public schools?
- ✍✍ Socialization processes used to assert political ideals and social expectations
- ✍✍ Meritocracy—we often believe we are functioning in a meritocratic society or meritocratic schools, but other factors than merit might be highly influential on outcomes.
- ✍✍ Teaching politics in schools—how do you decide what to teach (right wing vs. left wing, furthering the goals of the political group in power, etc.)

Social Purposes of Schooling

- ✍✍ The school now teaches what the church and family do not
- ✍✍ Public school characteristics and expectations versus home school
- ✍✍ Schools are concerned with ways to overcome poverty
- ✍✍ Sex education in schools is highly controversial, can conflict with religious views

Economic Purposes of Schooling

- ✍✍ Schools prepare students for the work/labor force by teaching behaviors such as attendance, punctuality, obedience, etc.
- ✍✍ Schools sort students to go into the various professions and parts of the labor force
- ✍✍ Concerned with the question of whether investment in education produces economic returns—should governments invest in schools if there are few economic returns?
- ✍✍ Students are prepared for greater efficiency and higher productivity
- ✍✍ While in the past the assembly-line model ruled, today schools are more technologically (computer) oriented
- ✍✍ What role should business play in funding or influencing schools?