Education tells us that the American Dream is easy to accomplish and that it works for everyone and that we are “created equal” but when we look at a child that is from a low-income/social economic environment the influence is incredible in how a child adopts to the demands surrounding him or her. While watching a documentary called Waiting for Superman, the first opening line of the film really touched me and showed me what a low-income child thinks and desires in their lives. “No matter who we are or what neighborhood we live in each morning wanting to believe in our schools. We take a leap of faith.” – (Waiting for Superman) Americans see education as something that is important. Education gives us the chance to learn and gain skills that will maximize the quality of our social and economic life for ourselves and our family.

Education is a “created equal” right to all people. Education teaches young people the values, beliefs and skills in society. Education can empower us with skills to act upon the world. But the real question is does education empower us? Yes it does empower us in makes us a successful doctor, lawyer, educator, president etc. Or does it stifle our personal growth? Our growth is only stifled if we lose interest in learning. What can Americans do to enhance our education and to make it a positive image? Educators should be given more respect, better pay, and better benefits because they are the roots of our educational growth. Poor working conditions, lack of equipment, parental support often creates a negative view of education and teachers performance. I feel that the key to
have a great education is to have a great teacher that engages with the students in a positive format and attitude.

American society today needs to be more supportive towards the quality of our schools and the educators. Lowering standards for our schools will compromise the quality of education where students will graduate without basic skills. Most will not go on to higher education, but instead work menial jobs or live on welfare or even worse end up in jail. We need to keep the American schools from falling apart.

In 1999 U.S public school reported that the conditions of their building were not acceptable. It was reported that the child's environment is very important and plays an important role to education. Students want to feel secure when there in a place that isn't their home. If a building is falling apart how is that a secure and comforting environment?

While reading Idiot Nation by Moore, I was disturbed to learn that "Almost 10 percent of U.S public schools have enrollments that are more than 25 percent greater than the capacity of their permanent building. Classes have to be held in the hallways, outdoors, in the gym, in the cafeteria." - (Idiot Nation, Pg. 137) Moore

Another problem that is on the rise by the U.S budge cuts is the closing of hours have been cut. Not having a library is tragic because having a library keeps children in a safe and enriching setting. Jonathon Kozol an author who is dedicated to education and is an advocate for children who are less fortunate. Has observed school libraries and has stated: "remain the clearest window to a world of noncommercial satisfactions and enticements that most children in poor neighborhoods will ever know". (Idiot Nation, Pg.137)
In Jean Anyon’s article it talks about the different types of educational curriculum to students in different social economic status. This leads back to the beginning of my essay where everyone should be “created equal”. Due to the lack of “created equal” funds to all teachers and schools in the system, “created equal” benefits are not being met. Whether you’re a low-income family or a wealthy family you should all have the same education that has been created. In the working-class schools the work is following the steps, which involves very little decision-making or choices. The teachers don’t explain to the students why this assignment is assigned. The textbooks that are available are not being used. In the middle-class school the idea of the work is to get the right answer. If one gets the right answer than they will receive a good grade. The students must follow the directions but often make the students make their own decision-making. You can see a difference from a middle-class school to a working-class school. In the more profession schools the students are independent. Work involves the student’s own thought and ideas. The students are asked to reason through a problem and provide intellectual evidence. Jean Anyon states: “These differences may not only contribute to the development in the children in each social class of certain types of economically significant relationships and not others but would thereby help reproduce this system of relations in society.” (Social Class, Pg. 185) I feel that a low-income student should have the same teaching experience that a middle-class student has. Every teacher should put 100% in their teaching and provide as much material in the classroom that can enhance a child’s education.
“Can you really buy your way to better education for these children?” “Do we know enough to be quite sure that we will see an actual return on the investment that we make?” *(The shame of The Nation, Pg.57 - Kozol)* You can buy your way to a better/higher education when the child or student has earned the entre to this higher education provider. This world needs less segregation of education to create more equality of education. “Integrated education creates better citizens for a democracy. In an increasingly diverse society and an increasingly connected world, it is more important than it ever was.” *(The Shame of Nation, Pg. 238 - Kozol)*

Teachers play a huge factor in a child’s life. They are the seed of education into a child’s brain. I hope that one-day teachers can me recognized for their contribution to the development of our future society.