

Cultural Capital at Work

Sociology

The concrete ways cultural resources convert into institutional advantage.

Three forms, and the settings where each pays.

Three forms

Embodied: accent, ease, bearing, taste.

Objectified: books, instruments, the home.

Institutionalised: degrees and certificates.

Acquired slowly, mostly in the family.

Read as talent rather than as inheritance.

Where it pays

Asking a teacher for extra help.

Interviews rewarding a familiar manner.

Knowing which universities to apply to.

Challenging an institutional decision.

Unpaid internships in a costly city.

Educational reference. Effect sizes in the empirical literature vary widely by country, measure and outcome studied.