

Cultural Reproduction

Sociology

The step-by-step mechanism by which advantage passes through a fair-looking school.

Each step is neutral in form and unequal in effect.

1

The school sets a standard

A register of language, manner and knowledge is treated as correct.

2

Some arrive already fluent

Homes that match the standard have taught it for years already.

3

Fluency reads as ability

Teachers see aptitude where they are seeing familiarity.

4

Sorting follows the reading

Sets, entries and encouragement track the early judgement.

5

Credentials certify the result

The outcome now looks earned, and the origin has disappeared.

Educational reference. This is a mechanism, not a law: measured effect sizes vary by system and are debated.