CULTURAL HEGEMONY EXERCISE

1. Define VALUES:

Functionalists are concerned with ways that social institutions promote social stability. One way that social institutions promote social stability is through the production of shared values.

2. What values do the following institutions promote? In what way do those values promote social stability?
   a. High schools
   b. Professional football

Cultural Hegemony
- Cultural institutions such as schools, political parties and the media advertise a version of reality that favors elite interests
- Elites maintain power and protect common class interests (wealth and ownership) through the use of cultural institutions rather than by force

The concept of cultural hegemony suggests that social institutions have the potential to create or maintain inequality. The version of social stability that familiar social institutions promote may not benefit all groups equally within a society.

Consider this: Many activities within high schools, such as clubs, athletic teams, academic/vocational tracking, etc … create ways to rank or categorize students. This ranking leads to unequal outcomes (ie: inequality).

3. Reconsider the values promoted by high schools and professional football. In what ways could these values favor the interests of elites over the interests of other social groups?

Identify another social institution: __________________________

4. What values does this institution promote? In what way do those values promote social stability?

5. In what ways might these values favor the interests of elites over the interests of other social groups?