

Name: _____

Date: _____

Hierarchy and Human Nature

Part 1 - Directions: Read and respond to each question below. Your responses will help guide a class discussion that you *must* participate in. Please remember that many of your responses will be based only on your personal opinion, in other words there are no right/wrong answers for many of the questions below.

Hierarchy defined:

A system or organization in which people or groups are ranked one above the other according to status or authority

Hierarchy Questions

1a. What is a hierarchy? (Rewrite the definition in your own words)

1b. Provide one example of a hierarchy (from history or from the modern-day).

2a. Schools such as Edna Brewer have a hierarchy (Principal, Vice Principal, Teachers, Aids, then Students). Why do you think that is?

2b. Should schools like Edna Brewer have a hierarchy, or is there an alternative way to organize a school?
Explain

3. Why do **societies** have hierarchies? (i.e. what would it offer them?) *Think about what Feudalism offered certain members of society within both Japan and early medieval Europe. What did those structures do for those societies?*

4. In your opinion is a hierarchy in a society or good thing, bad thing, or both? Explain your answer in terms of how hierarchies impact how societies function, and how hierarchies affect the people who live in those societies.

5a. Is a hierarchy simple part of human nature (animal instinct to need leaders and followers) or is it something created by individuals in power? Explain

5b. Is a hierarchy fair to all of the people who participate in it?

6. In many hierarchies most of the people are at the bottom. Why do you think that is? (Hint: Leaders and followers)

7a. What is an alternative (better) way to organize your society without having a hierarchy?

7b. In your opinion, is your answer to 7a a better or worse way to organize society?

Part 2 – Discussion: Place yourself on one side of the room based on your response to question 4. When you are finished with the class discussion, please answer the questions below.

A. Was your mind changed during the discussion? Why/Why not?

B. What other piece of information almost had you change your mind or DID change your mind? Why?