Two assignments

First assignments

For the first assignment one page is enough:

1)*Who, specifically, is being stratified*?  Please provide examples and explain the multi-dimensional consequences of the stratification.  That is, how does it affect the individuals being stratified and the community, in general?  Are there global effects from this form of stratification? Who is responsible?

*2)Identity the particular form of stratification you will be examining*. Outline the specific problem/struggle that is going on, being careful to mention the geographic region it is taking place in.  It is up to the group members to decide where you will take this topic.  Obviously, it is a very general topic.  Get engaged in discussion with the group to narrow down your focus.  Are there particular cultural components to this region that help to explain why this form of stratification is happening?

Second assignment Three pages are required:

*This assignment corresponds to the Education PPT, Education chapter from your textbook, and the short film entitled This Old Schoolhouse. In an effort to get you all critically thinking and able to make solid, well-supported arguments, this assignment will have you supporting differing solutions for our educational shortfall. The following are a few suggestions that have been raised politically. Read each over and then choose****at least two (2) perspectives****and compare and contrast using the questions below to lead you in your analysis.*

Perspective #1 - Raising Educational Standards (No Child Left Behind)

America's public schools are neglecting the basics. Consequently, many young people are handicapped by serious academic deficiencies. Higher academic standards and well-defined goals are essential. There must be an agreed-upon core of knowledge that students are expected to master. We need traditional, no-nonsense schools where students acquire a solid foundation of basic knowledge; and regular exams and report cards provide a clear indication of whether kids are making progress. In addition, the schools need to teach the value most Americans share, including honesty, fairness, punctuality, respect, and personal responsibility.

Perspective #2 - Creating Student-Centered Schools (Charter Schools)

The underlying problem in the schools is that many students are disengaged from learning, in large part, because of what they're taught and how they are taught. The essential ingredient in good school is teachers who are sensitive to students' needs and differences, and able to inspire intellectual curiosity. For what has guided successful teachers and schools is teach the child, not the subject. Instead of trying to agree on a one-size-fits-all curriculum, schools should teach what students will not soon forget: problem-solving skill and critical thinking - in other words, how to think.

Perspective #3 - Offering Educational Choices/The Voucher System

The fundamental problem is that most parents don't have a choice about where their kids go to school. Except for a small minority who choose to pay for private or parochial schools, parents don't have many alternatives. In effect, public schools have a monopoly on affordable primary and secondary education. They haven't improved because they don't have to. If most parents and students had a choice, public schools would compete for students, just as store compete for buyers. The resulting competition would create a situation that rewards schools that are doing a good job, while forcing the rest to change - or go out of business. In this option, the government would issue a check to each taxpayer adult with children for the cost of each child's yearly education. The parents would then have the option of taking that money to whatever school they desired. Of course, private schools might up their tuition to keep their population affluent.

Discussion Questions:

1) In what ways would this perspective (1, 2, or 3 and please identify which you are discussing) change the current educational system? *Be specific and explain*.

2) How would this alternative form of education impact minority students (race, social class, ESL students, disabled learners, etc.)?

3) What are the arguments in **support** of this alternative?

4) What are the arguments in **opposition** to this alternative?

5) Differentiate how a *functionalist*theorist and *conflict*theorist would analyze this alternative form of education.

This assignment will be **typed and minimum of 3 pages (double spaced)** in Word format and uploaded directly into Moodle using the Submit button.

(\*\*\*Hint: In order to get full credit on this assignment, be sure to analyze two alternatives and address the theory question on both!\*\*\*)