



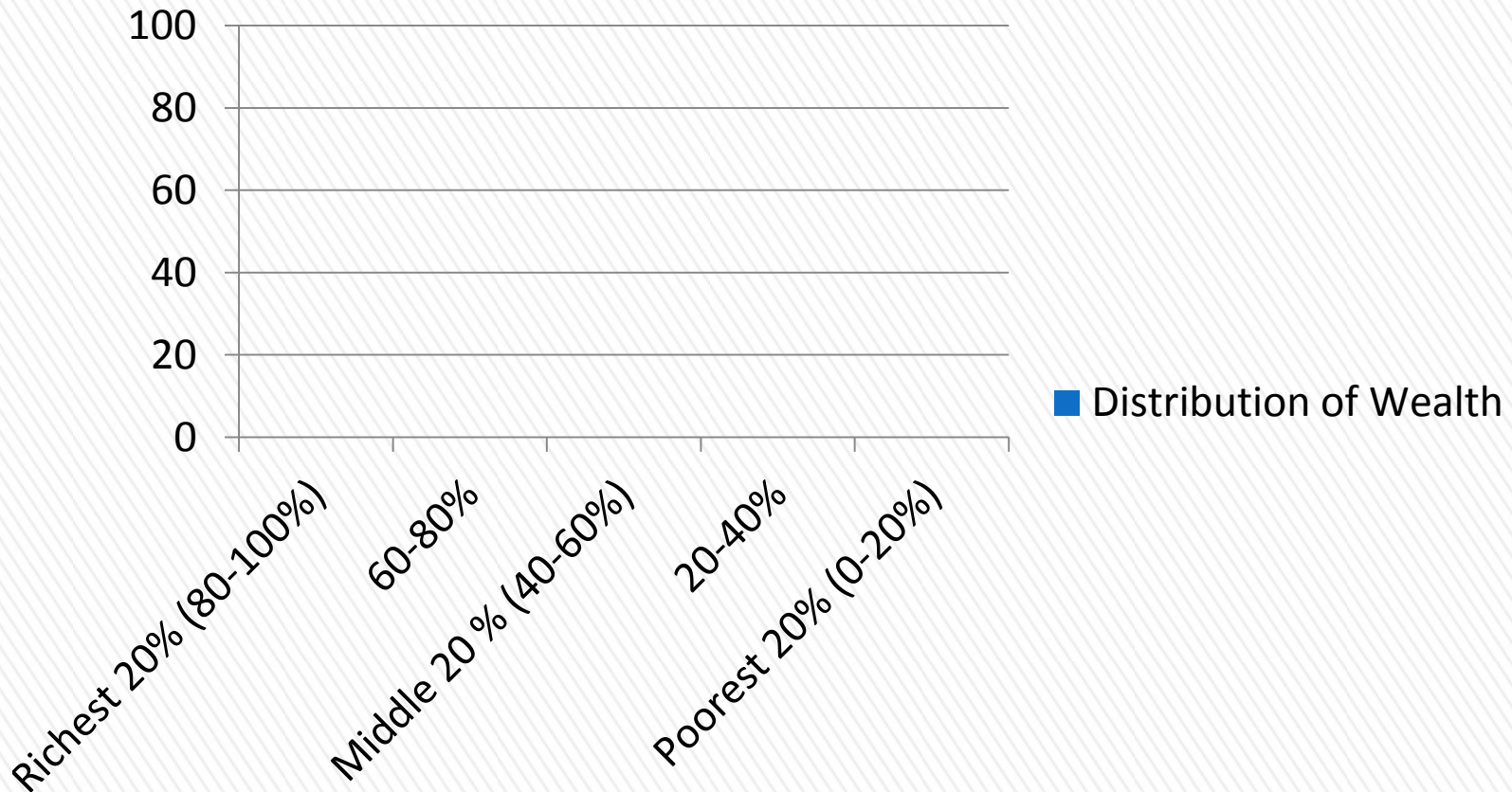
I can analyze wealth inequality in America and evaluate how wealth can lead to access for opportunities .

Wealth Inequalities in America

» How is wealth distributed in America?

- > Draw a bar graph or pie chart predicting who holds the wealth in America.
 - + For each 20%
- > Draw a second chart indicating how **YOU THINK** the wealth should be divided.

Distribution of Wealth



» Wealth Inequality in America

» Just watch the video, no notes 😊

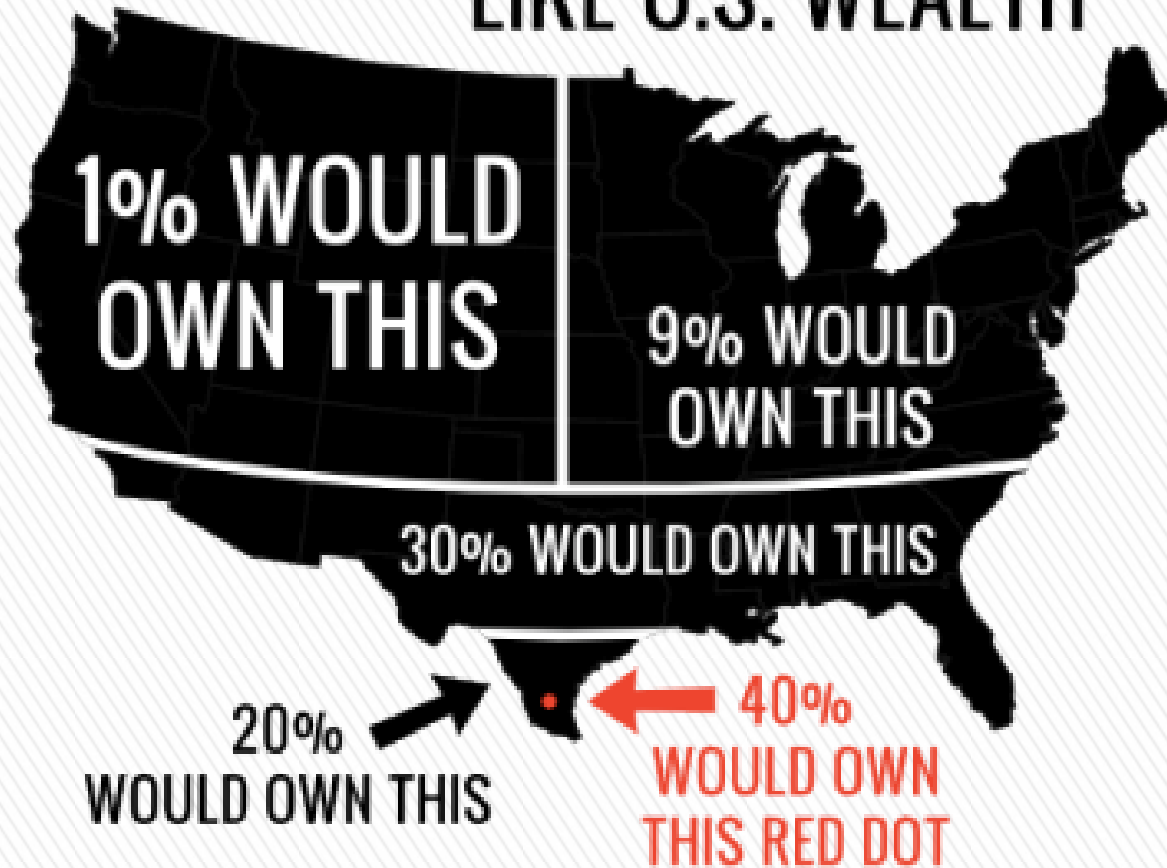
Video



- » Both Republicans and Democrats in the US claim that their policies “grow” the middle class. The “ideal” wealth distribution that people desire also has a strong middle to the “curve”. Why do you think this is so important? Why is having a large middle class seen as being so beneficial?
- » Why do you think we are so off when we compare what we think things are with how things actually are? Whose fault is this? Is this discrepancy by itself a bad thing?
- » The video states that the bottom 80% control only 7% of the wealth. The narrator also states that over the last 20-30 years this inequality is getting worse. Why do you think this is the case? Can you offer up some ideas on what might be the cause of this type of growth of inequality?



IF U.S. LAND MASS WERE DIVIDED LIKE U.S. WEALTH



SOURCE: G. William Domhoff, US Santa Cruz



- » Predict the median income for a family of 4 in the U.S.
- » The MIDDLE income. That means 50% of people have incomes higher, 50% have incomes lower
- » What about the average yearly income for the top 10%?
- » The bottom 10%?

Predict...



- » Top 10% for a family of 4 (aka 90th percentile): \$162,000
- » U.S. median for a family of 4: \$56,100
- » U.S. Poverty Line for a family of 4: \$22,162
- » Lowest 10% for a family of 4 (aka 10th percentile): \$14,000

- » King County Median: \$75,301

Reality



| 10 th percentile (lowest 10 %) | Median | 90 th Percentile (highest 10%) |
|--|--------|--|
| | | |

Separate your examples
into three columns



- » Lay out all the cards on the table
- » Place each card in the appropriate column
- » Put cards in the lowest-wage group that can access that opportunity

- » EX: Able to vote in American elections.
- » Who can do this?
- » The lowest-wage group that can do this is 10th percentile

Your Task...



- » In what ways does income impact life? Think about the examples from our activity. (where they live, where they work, how they get there, what they do for fun, etc)
- » How much do these opportunities vary regionally? Think about living in the greater Seattle-area versus living in a small-Midwest town.

Reflection Questions



- » Differential treatment based on social class or perceived social class.
 - > Using terms like "ghetto," "trailer trash," and "hood rats" to put down and discriminate against others of lower socioeconomic status.

- » Have you seen other examples of classism?

Classism



1. What has been your biggest takeaway from our look at wealth inequality and socioeconomic opportunity?
2. How might an understanding of classism change how you navigate high school both academically and socially?

Exit Ticket

