More Than One Hat

How social positions shape what others expect

S.3.5 "Describe status as a component of social structure, including status sets, ascribed and achieved statuses, status symbols and master status."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each distinct status Mina holds, write A above any underlined status identified as ascribed and E above those identified as achieved, and circle the status symbol. Put a star beside the status visitors treat as her master status.

At the Winter Shelter

1. At the town's winter shelter, Mina checks a guest list while people bring in blankets and hot meals. The shelter runs smoothly partly because people recognize different social positions, or statuses, and know whom to ask for help. Mina is a paramedic, a neighbor, a parent, and a member of the town running club. Together, those positions form her status set. A status is a position a person holds in a group or society, while a role is behavior expected of someone in that position. Checking a guest's pulse is part of Mina's role as a paramedic, not a separate status.

2. Some positions enter a person's life without being earned or chosen. Mina became a daughter at birth, so daughter is an ascribed status. Other positions result from actions, choices, or qualifications. Mina completed medical training and passed required tests to become a paramedic, making that an achieved status. She joined the running club by signing up, another achieved status. A status can affect what people expect even when the person is doing something else. When Mina sorts blankets instead of treating patients, she still holds the status of paramedic; a temporary task does not erase it.

3. Mina's work jacket has a patch that identifies her as a paramedic. The patch is a status symbol, a visible sign linked to a social position, not the position itself. At the shelter, visitors often call Mina "the paramedic" even when she is handing out blankets. They may see that position as her master status because it shapes how they identify and approach her more than her other statuses do. At home, her child may think first of her as a parent instead. A master status is especially influential in how someone is seen, but it does not cancel the rest of a status set.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Name three statuses in Mina's status set. Why is checking a guest's pulse not another status?

2. Classify Mina's daughter and paramedic statuses as ascribed or achieved. How did each begin?

3. What is Mina's status symbol? Why is it a symbol rather than a status?

4. Which status acts as Mina's master status at the shelter? Give one detail that supports your answer, and explain what happens to her other statuses.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a person at a community event other than the winter shelter. In 5 to 6 sentences, describe at least three statuses in the person's status set, identify one ascribed and one achieved status and how each began, name a status symbol, and explain which status acts as the person's master status at the event and why.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each distinct status Mina holds, write A above any underlined status identified as ascribed and E above those identified as achieved, and circle the status symbol. Put a star beside the status visitors treat as her master status. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name three statuses in Mina's status set. Why is checking a guest's pulse not another status?	**Possible statuses include paramedic, neighbor, parent, daughter, and running club member. Checking a pulse is behavior associated with her paramedic role, not a social position.**
2	Classify Mina's daughter and paramedic statuses as ascribed or achieved. How did each begin?	**Daughter is ascribed because Mina held that position at birth. Paramedic is achieved because she completed training and passed required tests.**
3	What is Mina's status symbol? Why is it a symbol rather than a status?	**The patch on her jacket is a visible sign of her paramedic status. The status is her position as a paramedic, not the patch.**
4	Which status acts as Mina's master status at the shelter? Give one detail that supports your answer, and explain what happens to her other statuses.	**Paramedic acts as her master status at the shelter. Visitors call her "the paramedic" even when she hands out blankets. Her other statuses remain part of her status set.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the neighborhood art fair, Theo is a son, a student, and a certified sign-language interpreter. Son is an ascribed status he held at birth. He earned his interpreter certification through training and an exam, so interpreter is an achieved status. His fair-issued interpreter badge is a status symbol that identifies his position to visitors. At the fair, interpreter acts as Theo's master status because people seek him out to help them communicate with artists. His other statuses remain part of his status set even when visitors focus on one.

Accept other valid status sets and symbols if the student distinguishes a social position from its visible sign. A master status should be supported by how people identify or approach the person in the stated setting.