

Table 8.2 Summary of sociological perspectives: Education

	Functional	Conflict/Feminist	Interactionist
Explanation of education	<p>Using a macro perspective, functionalists examine the functions of the educational system.</p> <p>The educational system is strained from performing multiple functions.</p>	<p>Conflict and feminist theorists address how the educational system perpetuates economic, ethnic, and gender inequalities.</p> <p>Students, depending on their social backgrounds, are differentially treated by the educational system.</p>	<p>Using a micro perspective, an interactionist focuses on how the educational experience is created through interaction and shared meanings in the classroom.</p>
Questions asked about education and its social problems	<p>What manifest or latent functions does education serve?</p> <p>How is education affected by other social institutions?</p>	<p>How does education perpetuate social inequalities?</p> <p>Is one group more disadvantaged than another?</p>	<p>How do classroom dynamics determine the educational success of a student?</p> <p>What is the relationship between teacher–student interaction and student success?</p> <p>How does student tracking or labeling impact student achievement?</p>