Analysis Paper 3: Explaining Educational Inequality

You are a Trinity College intern who is working in the Hartford Public Schools district office. The superintendent, Dr. Leslie Torres-Rodriguez, and her staff want to better understand the educational research literature explaining educational inequality. She has enlisted your help with this task.

Your job is to write a memo about key works in the educational research literature on explaining educational inequality, and details how it specifically applies to schools in Hartford.

The central question for this memo is: **According to the educational research literature, what are THREE reasons why inequality exists in schools?**

For each reason:
1) Summarize what the educational literature says about this reason. You must cite at least one course reading in your response (one citation for each reason, three total citations in the paper).

2) Provide a concrete example, from a course reading, of what the inequality you described in #1 looks like in schools or classrooms.

3) Make a claim that states one of the following:
   * The explanation applies to your placement school and/or the Hartford region.
   * The explanation does not apply.
   * More evidence is needed to determine whether or not it applies.

4) Provide evidence to support the claim you made in #3, such as:
   * Your observations at your Ed 200 school placement
   * Your classmates' observations at their Ed 200 school placements
   * Public data on school resources and educational outcomes
   * If you state that more evidence is needed, explain what evidence you would need, and what kind of research study you would design to obtain this evidence.

Your memo will be evaluated on these criteria:
* Does the author clearly articulate each reason for educational inequality, and provide an example?
* Does the author make an insightful argument on whether or not each explanation applies to their placement school and/or the Hartford region?
* Does the author persuasively support these arguments with appropriate evidence?

How to Cite Sources:

You must cite all sources you use in APA style – both in the text of the paper and in your reference list. To help you focus on the writing, feel free to copy and paste citations from the syllabus into your reference list. You must also ensure that you appropriately include in-text citations throughout your paper.

For **observational evidence** from an Ed 200 school placement, write something like:

"For example, while at ELAMS, I observed. . ." or

"At HMTCA, a Trinity student noticed. . . "

No citation is necessary. You may name the school in this assignment, but use pseudonyms for individual people (teachers, students, parents, etc.)

One source for public data on your school: http://edsight.ct.gov/SASPortal/main.do

Click on "2015-16 Profile and Performance Reports," then select from drop down menus:

ELAMS – District: Hartford School District, School: Expeditionary Learning at Moylan Academy

HMTCA – District: Hartford School District, School: Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy

Montessori – District: Capitol Region Education Council, School: Montessori Magnet School

Other Requirements:

Your paper should have an introduction (that includes a thesis statement) and a conclusion.

Your paper should include at least FOUR citations of course readings, all from Unit 3: Explaining Educational Inequality (readings for Oct. 3-31).

Your paper should be 3-4 pages (double spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins).

Analysis Paper 3 is due on Thursday, March 29 at 11:59 PM.