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Your Title: {Sample Answer for “Using Census Data to Analyze your Neighborhood”}

The population of where I live is small compared to New York City, only 7,134 people. The median family income for Census Tract 3.02 in Amador County, California is \$47,996. I was surprised by this, because when I looked at the map of my census tract I saw that it only included a small portion of my town, and the entirety of Ione and Camanche. The **economic institution** of business is the most important in my town, and that makes it thought of as one of the wealthier towns in the county, whereas Ione and Camanche are thought of as being a poorer part of the county. School children even call Ione “the ghetto,” which is ridiculous as there has never been a history of a geographically restricted ethnic group there, but nonetheless this shows the attitude towards Ione and the people living there. After seeing the map, I believed that the median income would be much less because of all of this, but once I started thinking about it logically and without prejudice, I thought of possible reasons for the median income in my census tract. Mule Creek state prison is located in Ione, which adds to Ione’s rough reputation, but also creates reasonably well- paying jobs. Also, after looking at the mean travel time to work (28 minutes) many people are traveling outside of this census tract to perhaps Sacramento or the Jackson Rancheria, an Indian Gaming Casino in another part of the county. Travel to either location would increase the availability of higher paying jobs and therefore account for the surprising median income.

The graduate rate in school is 87% and I was one of those who played the student **role** there, doing homework, athletics, and playing band. My **status set** at school was hard-working

student, basketball team member, and first chair flutist. The chart says that 34% of people my age (18-24) went to college after high school, so I'm in the minority among my age group. Getting the first chair flute position in band was the **achieved status** I was most proud of.

An **ascribed status** that I hold is that of Hispanic woman. I am one of many in my census area; according to the table it says there are 720 others (we make up 10.1% of the total population). I feel this status has done good things for me, allowing me to express my culture and heritage in language, food and otherwise, but also there are down sides, like when I went to the shopping mall and felt like I was being followed around by the security people there.

A **role conflict** I experienced had to do with the different expectations my parents had when I went to work as a cleaner at the local casino and my boss. My parents wanted me to be home by dinner so we could eat together (an old value, but a good one), and my boss kept scheduling me during that time. This created a strain between my statuses of family member and employee.