

## NEW YORK CITY PEOPLE

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[Assignment: With a clearly defined purpose write an essay that compares two objects or experiences. Define any special terms. Explain the unfamiliar in terms of the familiar. Relate the things compared to an underlying truth about personal or societal values.]

(1) During my summer vacation in New York City, I discovered millions of people with differing ideas, religions, races and careers. There seemed to be two basic categories that the city dwellers fit into: the well-paid, young, urban professionals, nicknamed "yuppies," and the meager-living, unconventional, "artsy" type called "bohemians."

(2) In the area of Grand Central Station in midtown Manhattan Island (midtown runs from 34th to 57th Streets), large masses of people wearing business suits are running to catch one of the several rush-hour trains. Yes, these are yuppies. While some live in the wealthy suburbs of New York City, many choose to reside in midtown areas like Murray Hill, located from East 33rd to 42nd Streets. Their apartments usually have uniformed doormen and spacious rooms that look as if they were professionally decorated and cleaned twice a day. The rent runs from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per month.

(3) You may wonder where these people get the money for such lofty rents. The answer is high-paying professional positions like broadcasters, stockbrokers, doctors, insurance salespeople, and lawyers. The yearly salary varies, but rarely runs under \$50,000.

(4) Yuppies are usually easy to spot by the way they dress. For men the customary dress consists of a suit in gray, navy blue, or brown; oxford shirt, tie, and sometimes a V-neck sweater. Women's wardrobes vary a little more in color, ranging from navy blue to beige and pink to black. Their clothing includes dresses, suits, jackets, pants, and skirts. One item every female yuppie must have in her jewelry box is a pearl necklace that should be worn as often as possible. To purchase these clothes, the stores that yuppies patronize are Abraham and Strauss, Saks Fifth Avenue, B. Altman, and Neiman Marcus. Since their wardrobe is usually of high quality and sold at "these fine stores," the prices are very high. But as mentioned earlier, yuppies make enough money to comfortably afford these clothes.

(5) Although they may seem as if they are the "homey" type who would lock themselves up at home reading Newsweek many young urban professionals enjoy a social life. Considering the hundreds of restaurants, clubs, and bars in Manhattan, the choices are almost limitless. However, the jazz club, Gregory's, at 1st Avenue and 63rd

Street, and La Roleau on Madison Avenue and 64th Street, are the yuppies' favorite spots. On the other hand, quieter types can also find entertainment at the Lincoln Center.

(6) At the opposite end of the "people spectrum" are the bohemians. These "artistic" people inhabit areas like Greenwich Village, the Lower East Side, East Village, and low-rent sections of Soho. Their apartments are cheap, which is obvious when looking at their condition. Usually dirty, minimally furnished, and unheated, the rooms are normally shared with friends or even strangers. Musical instruments, art supplies, and other paraphernalia may be scattered about the apartment, depending upon the interests of the occupants. The monthly rent can run from \$400 to \$600, although lower rents are sometimes available.

(7) Judging from their meager living conditions, it is rather obvious that bohemians have low paying jobs. Some work as waiters or waitresses, cooks, salespeople, musicians, or anything else that is open and that they are qualified for. Others take to street performing, like comedians, music groups, soloists, dancers, and magicians. Salaries for this type of performance vary daily based on the willingness of the audience to give money. Regular jobs pay minimum wage, sometimes slightly over that.

(8) With the same "take what you can get" attitude of job finding, these people buy any clothes that they can dig up for a low price. Some dress in ways that are labeled "punk" or "new wave," but others show no preference for these styles. Department stores are rarely visited by these folk as they do most of their shopping at small, privately-owned shops. Such shops are Trash and Vaudeville on St. Mark's Place, the Unique Clothing Warehouse on 8th Street and Broadway, and Salvation Army and Goodwill thrift shops. Other stores, like The Antique Boutique at Broadway and Canal Jean Co. on Canal Street are often patronized, but their merchandise is a little more expensive.

(9) Unlike yuppies, these "artsy" people look as though they have active social lives, which for the most part is true. Dance clubs are spread throughout the downtown Manhattan areas and are open on weekends and some weekdays. Popular clubs are the Limelight at 6th Avenue and 20th Street, Heartbreak in Soho, and Danceteria on West 20th Street. Because of their novelty and popularity, most of these spots charge high admission fees, which bohemians can afford to pay despite their small salaries.

(10) Yuppies and bohemians are the two major groups of people that I noticed and that stood out while in New York City. However, if you look deeper, many more could be found. In a city with one of the largest populations in the world, the types of characters are limitless.