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After reading the article explaining the abuse that comes from affluent families I started to self analyze my own thoughts and how I subconsciously view abuse without even realizing it. I will openly admit that I tend to group child abuse and lower income families together and I believe that is based on the fact that I have heard and seen more cases of child abuse in lower income families. In movies, books, and the local news abuse is almost always taking place in poor neighborhoods and families struggling to get by. The article states very valid points about affluent families and why abuse is not commonly heard about in such circumstances. I would say it is true that doctors, teachers, and day care providers are more willing to believe a bruise on a child came from a fall than from a wealthy father who has a good reputation in society. It is also true that professionals of any kind (teachers, doctors, etc.) may not be looking for signs of abuse in a wealthy community, they may not even know where to begin to suspect abuse. Staffs in lower income neighborhoods and big city hospitals are used to seeing abused children and know what signs to look out for. As an employee of Cincinnati Children’s Hospital I take care of abused children every week. I now know what to look for and how children tend to act when they have been victimized. Before working at the hospital and moving to Cincinnati I had no idea what to watch for or expect in a child who had been abused. I come from a very small town where everyone knows each other, everyone trusts each other, and no one would ever think to accuse a mother or father of child abuse. I would say that my community back home is oblivious to these devastating crimes. The article states, “And just because someone is well educated and successful doesn't mean they didn't have a dysfunctional childhood — something that can often influence what kind of parent they become.” This quote really made me stop and think. I feel as if society judges people on education and success in today’s world. If a mother and father have a college degree and high paying jobs they are made out to be the perfect parents. This may not be true in all cases. Just because a father and mother are educated and successful does not mean they know how to be a parent and treat their children with love and respect. Love and respect is not a class they teach in college. It is part of an individual’s character. This is the main reason I believe child abuse is looked passed in affluent families. A mother or father can be a completely different person in the work setting and at home.

I would say that I do give lower income families the benefit of doubt in most circumstances. I think this is because growing up I came from a low-income family, but the one thing that I did have was a loving and supportive family. Never once would my mother think about hurting one of my siblings or I, and I feel like that has instilled in me a sense of respect for all people if there is no evidence. Although, whether it is a low-income family or wealthy family I still think that identifying abuse victims is challenging. In today’s society no one ever wants to point fingers or cause problems because he/she doesn’t want to falsely accuse someone of something and look bad in the end if it happens to not be true. This is one of the main reasons I believe abuse is often overlooked. The problem is that these children are the one who need a voice; they need someone to point fingers and speak up for them because they are too afraid to do so. Although this may be very challenging for anyone, it needs to be done. The sticky situation is that individuals tend to be more willing to point fingers at lower class parents rather than upper class individuals. This is due to many reasons. Affluent families usually tend to have a lot more people on their side, more friends, more family, more connections in the community. People are not willing to stand up to these parents because of their socioeconomic status. Affluent families can hire the best lawyers and usually have a very large support system to back them up. Lower class families on the other hand do not have these links or ties. Low-income families usually cannot afford a lawyer to defend them in accusations of any sort and they may not have the type of support system that a wealthy family may have. It is apparent that child abuse happens in all levels of society and we are faced with bridging the gap of stereotyping it to low income families, but we all know abuse can happen anywhere, at anytime, to anyone.