

Multicultural Issues in a Thematic Context



- ❖ Not much is known about Woodard's life except he was an African American who was growing up in a time in which racial inequities and segregation were in full force in the United States, especially in the south.
- ❖ However, Woodard remembered not feeling disadvantaged as he was growing up, as his father had a good job with the United States Postal Service (Journal, p.173).
- ❖ Using the fact that his father had a good job during this time period, we inferred that Woodard's father probably supported his son's desire to further his education, and Woodard's family was supportive of his decision to become a mathematician.
- ❖ I also concluded that although Woodard probably had his family's support, he might not have had a lot of support from society considering the time period in which he lived.
- ❖ Woodard's career paths tended toward teaching institutions as he taught for two decades between his master's degree and Ph.D. This seemed to be a common ground among the mathematicians studied in this course. In some cases the mathematicians were underemployed because of their race or gender. Rather than working at educational institutions they should have worked at research institutions.
- ❖ He also taught, after he received his Ph.D., at Howard University, a traditionally black institution. This also was a trend encountered in the class. A number of the African American mathematicians studied could only find jobs at traditionally black institutions.