

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSION**

This research thesis discusses the role of social capital in Sam Montgomery's journey in *A Cinderella Story* (2004), analyzing how the protagonist's social relationships and support networks shape her ability to overcome adversity and achieve personal growth. By examining both intrinsic and extrinsic elements, the thesis provides a comprehensive understanding of how social capital operates within the narrative and its broader sociological implications.

The intrinsic analysis of the movie focuses on narrative elements such as character, setting, and conflict, as well as cinematic techniques like camera angles and shots. Sam Montgomery is portrayed as a resilient and determined young woman facing significant challenges after her father's death, including mistreatment by her stepmother and stepsisters. The settings ranging from her home to the diner where she works and her high school emphasize her struggles and aspirations. The conflicts depicted are both internal, as Sam grapples with self doubt and the desire for acceptance, and external, as she confronts the obstacles imposed by her family and social environment. Cinematic elements, including the use of close ups and varied camera angles, further highlight Sam's emotional journey and the significance of her relationships with key characters such as Carter, Rhonda, and Austin.

From the extrinsic perspective, this research thesis applies Robert Putnam's theory of social capital to analyze the causes, types, and impacts of social capital in Sam's journey. The research finds that the formation of social capital in Sam's life is driven by her need for belonging, trust, and mutual support amid a backdrop of declining institutional engagement in early 2000s America. The types of social capital influencing her journey include bonding social capital, seen in her close friendships with Carter and Rhonda, and bridging social capital, exemplified by her connection with Austin and the broader school community. These relationships provide emotional encouragement, practical assistance, and opportunities for personal development. The impact of social capital is evident in Sam's ability to confront injustice, assert her self-worth, and ultimately pursue her dreams despite systemic barriers.