## **Chapter 11 Discussion Questions**

### 11.1.1 Political Engagement

Have you used social media in relation to political engagement? Did you use social media more for political expression or political engagement? Provide examples.

### 11.2.1 The Power Elite

Do you agree with C. Wright Mills that the power elite controls society? Why or why not?

If you agree with the notion of the power elite, how would society be different if this dynamic did not exist?

### 11.3.1 Voter ID Laws

What is your opinion of voter ID laws? Are there modern-day versions of the poll tax?

### More Than a Theory

### 1.3.2 Functionalist

How are voter ID laws functional? How do they contribute to the political process?

In juxtaposition, how are voter ID laws dysfunctional? What do they take away from the political process?

### 1.3.3 Conflict

Do policies have to support one group in society at the expense of others? Can policies be developed that are beneficial to all members of the society? How can the least powerful in society protect their interests in the political process?

### 1.3.4 Symbolic Interactionist

What does the experience of being unable to vote due to financial limitations tell voters about their voice in the electoral process? Is a democracy a true representation of the will of the people if some individuals cannot afford to vote? Can policies be designed to help reduce the problems members of the electorate encounter while trying to vote?

### 11.4.1 Public and Private Nature of Economics

Both businesses and consumers want to save money. They often seek out the lowest wages and the least expensive products to do so. What is the true cost of cheaply manufactured goods? How is this personal trouble for the sweatshop workers? What can be done to make it more of a public issue?

### 11.4.1 Credit Cards and the Sociological Imagination

Consider the private and public nature of credit card usage. Do the advantages of them outweigh the disadvantages for the individuals and society as a whole?

Would people be better off without credit cards? Why or why not?

### 11.5.1 Campaign Spending

Should limits be put on political campaign spending? Why or why not? What are the pros and cons of each perspective?