## **Chapter 12 Discussion Questions**

### 12.1.1 Religion and Socialization

In relation to your religious preferences, discuss the agents of socialization that molded your religious beliefs and behaviors. Are you or do you think you could become a “None”?

### 12.2.1 Functions of Religion

How does your religion or the main religion within your country strengthen the community? How does it weaken?

How does religion provide assurance that there is a cosmic or supernatural being(s) ordering the world and that everything is not simply by chance?

### 12.3.1 Inequality in Public School Spending

What do you think should be done to reduce the inequality in public school spending?

Is it possible to create a more level playing field without rewarding poor school districts at the expense of rich school districts?

### More Than a Theory

### 12.3.2 Functionalist

In what way do schools use their policies and programs to impose social control on the student body? Can you think of specific examples from your experience as a student?

### 12.3.3 Conflict

How can school vouchers be used to level the educational playing field? What are the advantages and disadvantages of using vouchers in this manner?

### 12.3.4 Symbolic Interactionist

What role do stereotypes play in teachers' perception of students' academic ability? Can programs be developed to help teachers identify their own perceptions of educational inequality?

### 12.4.1 High School Dropouts

Do you know someone who has dropped out of school early? Did you leave and decide to return yourself? What would you say to encourage someone to stay in school?

### 12.5.1 College Costs

What do you do to reduce college expenses? Given the rising cost of college and the enormous debt burden of some graduates, will the long-term benefits of college outweigh the costs?