## **Chapter 3 Discussion Questions**

### Opener Beauty Pageants

Beauty pageants generate billions of dollars in the U.S. and they are firmly embedded within our culture. How difficult would it be to ban pageants for children under the age of sixteen?

If you agree with a ban, at what age would you ban children from participating in pageants? Why? If you disagree with a ban, why?

### 3.1.1 Campus Culture

What would you suggest to a first-time visitor on your campus as the best way to observe the culture of your campus?

What examples of material and nonmaterial culture would you talk about? What examples of ideal and real culture are on your campus?

### 3.2.1 Beliefs and Values

What are some examples of the beliefs and values that are considered important in American society? Do you have others that you personally feel are important?

Are your beliefs and values similar or different from your friends and family? Why do you think this is the case?

### 3.3.1 Subcultures

Are you a member of any subculture groups? Are your subculture groups different from other members of your family?

What social factors distinguish your subculture group from that of others you know?

### More Than a Theory

### 3.3.2 Functionalist

How does a government protect the interests of its population? Can you think of policies or laws that have been implemented in response to the concerns of counterculture groups in society?

### 3.3.3 Conflict

From a conflict perspective, what inequalities contributed to the counterculture movement that led to the rise of the Tea Party? Can you identify other examples of inequalities that have existed and have led to large-scale conflict between groups in society?

### 3.3.4 Symbolic Interactionist

Can you think of any signs, symbols, and patterns used by subculture groups like the Amish to distinguish them from surrounding society? How might counterculture hate groups use symbols to show their opposition to the dominant culture?

### 3.4.1 Ethnocentrism

Have you ever experienced or observed some form of ethnocentrism? What were the circumstances? How did it make you feel?

### 3.5.1 Popular and High Culture

How does popular and high culture change over time? What are some examples from your childhood?