

Discussion Questions

1. Think of a problem that impacts you personally (e.g., the high cost of tuition, unemployment, divorce) and explain how you would make sense of it differently if you viewed it as (a) a personal problem or (b) a public issue. How do possible solutions to the problem differ depending on whether you view it as a personal problem or a public issue?
2. How can sociology help you become a more informed citizen and better able to understand how government policies impact society?
3. What are three ways the sociological perspective can help you succeed in college and the workforce?
4. Think of some of the ways the social institutions of government and education interconnect. Why is it in the interest of the government to support higher education? How has government support (or lack of support) impacted your college experience?
5. Imagine you would like to look at reasons behind the college dropout rate in the United States. How might your explanations differ based on whether your analysis was on the micro, meso, or macro level? Why? Which level or levels would you focus on for your study? Why?