

# Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important for policy makers to understand the demographic trends in their nation? Why should *you* be interested in such knowledge? How might it impact your understanding of and positions on issues related to (a) immigration, (b) education, (c) health care, and (d) social security legislation?
2. How many children (if any) do you think you would (ideally) like to have? Why? What might make this (ideal) number change?
3. What are some examples of (a) pronatalist and (b) antinatalist policies? Do you approve of such policies? Why or why not? How might your perspective differ depending on the demographics of your particular nation?
4. How is the social status of girls and women related to a society's ability to control population growth? If you were a male leader in the government of an overcrowded nation, why and how might you use this information to promote gender equality in your country? How might your ideas be perceived differently if you were a man or a woman?
5. What are some of the major reasons people leave their country of origin and move to another? Have you ever done so? Why? If not, under what circumstances would you be willing to leave the country in which you were born and move to another?
6. When was the last time you practiced what Erving Goffman described as "civil inattention"? Why did you do so? What do you think would have happened if you did not do so?