

# Discussion Questions

1. Why is a good system of education important for a democracy? How can gaining a sociological perspective help people become more effective participants in a democratic society?
2. How do structural-functional and conflict theorists describe the “hidden curriculum” in schools? What description best matches your own school experience? Why?
3. How do schools “reproduce and perpetuate social stratification”? If you had the power and desire to use the school system to reduce inequality, what policies would you implement? What do you think the chances are of your policies actually being put into place? Why?
4. If you are a person of faith and affiliated with a religious community, how did you become so? If you are not, why is that so? How did your family members and peers influence your views toward religion?
5. Why is organization of religious groups important? How do systems of meaning, belonging, and structure connect to one another?
6. What do you think might happen to society if religions did not exist? Why? How would an absence of religion impact you personally?