

Chapter
5

STUDENT JOURNAL PROMPTS

Directions: Write as quickly as possible, without worrying too much about grammar or punctuation. Try to convey how you really think or feel.

1. The format of a recent television game show was to find a bride for a handsome, very wealthy bachelor. Many young women sought the chance to marry this man, no questions asked, and thereby achieve new social status. How would a sociologist explain this behavior?

2. A public school teacher is required by law to report any suspected abuse or neglect toward her students. Describe how role conflict occurs when a suspected abuser is a neighbor, good friend, and bowling partner of the teacher.



3. Industrialization brought about many changes in family structure. Predict what may occur in the future (say, the year 2025) if service and information industries (such as computers, banking, medical care, and entertainment) continue growing at a rapid rate while social relationships continue deteriorating.

4. Rights are behaviors that individuals expect from others; obligations are behaviors that individuals are expected to perform toward others. In your sociology class, one student continually makes loud noises and twitches while the teacher is speaking. This behavior distracts you and disrupts your concentration. What do you perceive as your rights in the classroom? What obligation does that student have to you? Do your thoughts change if you find out that the student has Tourette's syndrome and cannot control his outbursts, even with strong medication?

5. If a society (in theory) should contain enough smaller social structures to meet members' needs, what persuasive strategy would you use to convince your fellow classmates to forego a pizza party and donate the money instead to the local chapter of a charity such as Habitat for Humanity, the March of Dimes, Goodwill, or Hope for the Hungry?
