

# **Introduction to Sociology**

## **Chapter 1: Perspectives**

### **Study Guide**

1. What is the major difference between sociology and psychology?
2. Why do you think sociological imagination is important to the field of sociology?
3. List examples of three groups to which you belong.
4. Assume a state university raises tuition by ten percent, the highest rate hike ever in a single year. The next fall, enrollment drops by eight percent. Your friend says that the rate hike caused the enrollment drop. Is this thinking correct? Why or why not?
5. How is a manifest function different from a latent function?
6. What did C. Wright Mills mean by the term *sociological imagination*?
7. Do you agree with Herbert Spencer's theory of Social Darwinism? Why or why not?
8. Sociology began during a period of rapid change, including the Industrial Revolution and the French Revolution. Why do you think the field of study emerged at this time, rather than earlier?
9. Identify some similarities of and differences between the three major perspectives in sociology. Defend which perspective might be most appropriate for explaining social change in America.
10. Investigate the development of sociology in the United States from 1900. Choose one American who has made the most significant contribution to sociology, and explain the reasons for this choice.
11. Write a letter to the principal or guidance counselor at your cousin's school stating why implementing a sociology class would benefit both the students and the community. Persuade the principal to include this new course in the next fall term course offering.