**Chapter 10: Family and Education:**

**Institutionalizing Socialization**

**Web Exercises**

1. Go to [Forum on Child and Family Statistics.](http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/) On the toolbar on your left, you will see the Family and Social Environment indicators for the America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being 2007 study (e.g., child care, child maltreatment, adolescent births). Explore the data and answer the following questions.
2. What proportion of U.S. children live with both parents?
3. What special problems do babies born to adolescent mothers face?
4. What has the trend been for teenage births (to 15- to 17-year-olds) been like over the last decade? Given what you read in your textbook, does this finding surprise you? Why or why not?
5. How do child-care arrangements differ for children in poverty compared to those not in poverty? How might this be related to the "feminization of poverty" discussed in your text?
6. Do a general search on "marriage and divorce statistics in the United States." Write a report (including proper citations) that gives a general overview of marriage and divorce in the United States today. Be certain that you include the number of marriages and divorces today, reasons for divorce, and the impact that divorce can have on adults and children. Some possible places to search include:

[The U.S. National Center for Health Statistics](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/divorce.htm)

[The Internet Public Library](http://www.ipl.org/)

[Google Scholar](http://scholar.google.com)

Your college online library database

1. Some comparative studies have found the United States to compare poorly in the “family friendliness” of its laws and public policies. To explore this, read: <http://www.hreonline.com/pdfs/08012009Extra_McGillSurvey.pdf>. Answer the following questions:
2. What things is the United States doing well compared to other nations?
3. In what areas of work and family is the United States lagging behind?
4. Based upon your findings, do you believe that the United States should modify its work/family policies? Why or why not?
5. The [American Family Association](http://www.afa.net/) is an organization that claims to stand for “traditional family values.” As you read through the website, consider the following:
6. Does this site represent your values? If so, which ones? If not, how is it different?
7. Given the current family trends discussed in your textbook (teen pregnancy, cohabitation, and divorce), do you think the site represents the values of most Americans? Why or why not?
8. Go to the website for the [Families and Work Institute](http://familiesandwork.org/site/research/reports/main.html). Open one of the many articles on workplace flexibility.
9. What do you find as the trend in terms of workplace flexibility?
10. Is workplace flexibility more difficult in some industries than in others? How so?
11. How can workplace flexibility become gendered?
12. Go to the website for the National Center for Children in Poverty here: <http://nccp.org/tools/frs/>. Use the Family Resource Simulator, which shows how family resources and expenses change as earnings increase based on a hypothetical family. What did you find? Were you surprised by the answers?
13. Education is an issue in this country that affects us all, whether we are students, parents, teachers, taxpayers, workers, or employers. [Public Agenda](http://www.publicagenda.org/) is a great place to visit to get information, opinions, and current statistics on current public policy issues. Visit the section of the site dedicated to education at <http://www.publicagenda.org/citizen/issueguides/education>. Under the“Get the Facts” section examine several trend charts for topics that seem interesting to you. Then write a paragraph on changes in education, including information you just retrieved.
14. Visit the [United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=29008&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html) website and also visit their [Objectives for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development project](http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=23295&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html). Then write a paragraph comparing the state of education worldwide. You may want to further explore the UN website and use information you gathered for other web activities for this chapter.
15. The [National Center for Education Statistics](http://nces.ed.gov/) is a great place to get the latest statistics and facts on current trends and conditions in education within the United States. Click the Elementary/Secondary link (found in the submenu of “Surveys & Programs” tab) on the [NCES](http://nces.ed.gov/) website and follow several links to examine the most recent data available. Specifically, you may want to explore public and private school comparisons, the condition of school facilities, and expenditures. Imagine that you are an applied sociologist writing a report on the state of compulsory education in the United States. What are 5 to 10 interesting facts you uncovered that you will be sure to include in your report?
16. Go to the [NCES](http://nces.ed.gov/) website and read this report: [Debt Burden: A Comparison of 1992-93 and 1999-2000 Bachelor's Degree Recipients a Year After Graduating](http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2005170). Then go to your college or university's newspaper website and run a search for tuition, funding, or loans. What concerns do your colleagues have about paying for their education? Is this addressed by the NCES? What advice would you give your colleagues about paying for school based on your reading of the report? Write a 1-page brief summarizing your answers to these questions.

1. Visit the website for [The New Teacher Project](http://tntp.org/). Read “About TNTP” and “What we do.”
2. What are the primary goals of this organization?
3. If you were a sociologist employed by this organization, what theoretical perspectives would you utilize in order to acquire funding for projects?
4. How does this organization seek to level the playing field in terms of public education?
5. Visit President Barack Obama’s website that pertains to his ideas regarding education [here](http://l.barackobama.com/education/).
6. What are some of the goals of his educational plan?
7. Analyze the goals—do you agree or disagree with them? Why?
8. What additional suggestions can be made to improve our educational system?