Chapter Exercises for Chapter 1: The Social Work Profession

1. What is important to you in a career? Interview a social worker, and then interview a sociologist, a psychologist, or another human service professional. Compare and contrast their roles and responsibilities. Ask about their level of education and how quickly they got a job working with people upon graduation.

2. How would you respond to people (clients) who are poor, ill, or addicted and oppressed? Find out more about these population groups: Read articles or stories; watch a movie, Fox News, or C-SPAN; listen to NPR; or interview social workers who work with addicted, mentally ill, impoverished, and oppressed people. Then record your thoughts and feelings about working with people who are vulnerable and in need of services. For example, here are some of the questions you might explore in a few relevant movies:

a. *The Help:* What was your reaction to the oppression of lower-class African American women?

b. *Losing Isaiah:* What was your reaction to this transracial adoption?

c. *Maria Full of Grace:* What do you think about how drug/sex trafficking was portrayed?

3. What workplace features or career goals are most important to you? With which clients

might you most like to work?

4. On the BLS website (www.bls.gov/home.htm), find the range of salaries for social

workers in your local area or state. Compare salaries across practice settings, such as

aging, child welfare, corrections, health, mental health, and school social work. Then

compare the salaries for entry-level BSWs and advanced-practice MSWs.