**Chapter Exercises**

**Chapter 9: Race and Ethnicity**

1. Professional football and baseball teams, as well as numerous high school and college sports teams, use American Indian mascots. Some American Indians and their supporters object to this practice, suggesting that it is offensive. Together with a small group of classmates, use the Internet to research the issue and create a list of arguments used by those who defend and those who reject American Indian mascots. With which position do you agree and why?
2. Write down a list of fictional films you have recently watched and the genre into which they fall (for example, romantic comedy, drama, action film, horror, etc.). Next to the titles, note the main characters, their race and gender, and 2–3 defining characteristics. In how many of the films were the main character a racial or ethnic minority? In films where the main characters were not racial or ethnic minorities, what kinds of roles did minority characters have? Do you detect any pattern in the kinds of roles played by actors of different racial or ethnic groups? Share and compare your responses with classmates.
3. In the chapter, you read about Peggy McIntosh’s “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack” (1990). The quiz below is adapted from points made by McIntosh in her book. Fill in the first column from your own perspective and ask someone from another racial group to fill in the other column. When you both finish, write a few sentences describing what you found and your reaction to it.
4. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is the federal agency charged with investigating claims of discrimination that violate federal civil rights law. Examine a wide selection of cases filed with the commission at the “newsroom” and “statistics” sections of their website: (<http://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/newsroom/index.cfm> and <http://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/statistics/enforcement/index.cfm>). What patterns do you see in the types of discrimination claimed? Is the discrimination individual or institutional? Is it intentional or unintentional? Are there some areas of the country with more claims than others? Are some types of claims more common than others? Based on this analysis, how big of a problem do you think discrimination is in the United States today?
5. With a group of peers discuss what you would say your race was on the U.S. Census. Discuss why you would make that selection versus others. How do you know what your race is? How has society socialized you into thinking of yourself in this way?