**Chapter Exercises**

**Chapter 16: Health and Medicine**

1. As you saw in the opening story of this chapter, students at many schools are using study drugs. Duke University is among the first institutions of higher education to label the use of study drugs as cheating. Write a list of arguments on both sides of the debate about whether study drugs are cheating. Share your list with other students and discuss which of the arguments are more convincing and why.
2. This chapter examined some issues of how drug addiction, a common affliction in the United States, has been variously treated by society as deviance or as illness. Discuss this issue with a small group, considering the following questions: What are the individual-level and societal-level consequences of labeling drug addiction as deviance? What about illness? Which approach do you think would be more effective in addressing the problem today and why?
3. Teenage birth rates in the United States continue to be among the highest in modern countries. Think about recent films or television programs that portray the issue of teen motherhood. Make a list of media representations you have seen and think about how teen motherhood has been portrayed in those films or programs. Are most portrayals of the experience positive or negative overall? Would you hypothesize from a sociological perspective that these portrayals could have an effect on the phenomenon of teen motherhood? If yes, what kind of effect might they have?
4. Using the data in this chapter and the chapter on deviance, prepare a position statement about the health effects of gun ownership within the United States. Does the widespread ownership and availability of guns within the United States increase or decrease the health and safety of a community? What data would you point toward to support this position?
5. With a group of peers, define the expected sick role of a person who is knocked down and hits their head hard on the ground. Now imagine this person was a toddler walking across a room, a secretary working in an office, or a professional athlete competing in a big game. Would the sick role be the same for each person hitting their head? What would be the same and what would be different? How does social context shape how the sick role is constructed and how much pressure people have to enact that role in the expected manner? What would the community’s response likely be if the appropriate sick role was not enacted? What is the societal purpose of the sick role in each of these cases?