Chapter Exercises for **Chapter 5: Poverty and Inequality**

1. Keep a log of your daily expenditures over a week. Given your cash outlays, do you have a sense of financial security or insecurity? If you had to trim your personal budget, what expenses would you reduce and how? How would you describe your socioeconomic level and why?

2. Take time to reflect on how your family’s economic status impacts your life options. List the advantages you’ve experienced and also the challenges.

3. Read an editorial from one of the nation’s leading newspapers that applies to the content of this chapter. Write and share with the class a letter of support or rebuttal to the editorial that expresses your thoughts in a clear, concise fashion.

4. Spend time examining the community you are most familiar with, such as the one you

were raised in or the community where you currently live. Consider your selected

community in light of the dynamic advocacy model’s four interlocking tenets. Based

on your analysis, list at least four possible advocacy actions related to poverty and

inequality that you could organize in your community. What social work skills would

you use in these advocacy actions? What results would you hope to achieve?

5. Consider attending a service-learning immersion class, such as an “urban plunge” or

trip abroad, that will expose you to dire absolute needs. How do you think this type of

experience might challenge your thinking concerning human needs and rights?