Chapter 3

Discussion Questions.

1. The election of Barack Obama is seen by many as a great example of how the United States has significantly moved past racism. Even though the election of a black man into the presidency is a milestone, black-Americans still continue to lag behind in such things as income, wealth, and homeownership as compared to White-Americans. Discuss if President Obama’s election, overall, will help or hinder (or have no affect) on the ongoing struggle for equality for African-Americans in the U.S.
2. In April 2010, the state of Arizona passed Senate Bill 1070 with an aim to identify, prosecute and deport illegal immigrants. There has been a lot of controversy surrounding the law which has passionate supporters on both sides of the issue. As the federal government challenges the law and other states are closely watching the fallout, discuss the real and imagined results of this bill.
3. In 2012, the U.S. Census reported that minority births were the majority-50.4 % of children younger than age 1 year were Hispanic, Black, Asian, or of mixed race. Non-Hispanic Whites accounted for 46.9 % of all births in a 12-month period. Discuss how this demographic change may lead to cultural changes in U.S. society. Include a discussion of SB 1070 and other emerging issues in the Latin community.
4. Young Latinos are less likely than white students to complete a bachelor’s degree. What changes can be made in the U.S. educational system to combat this issue and help Latinos earn their college degrees?
5. Review how the four major sociological perspectives address the concepts of assimilation and cultural pluralism. Discuss which theor(ies) presents the best argument for or against these concepts.