**For Discussion**

1. What are the pros and cons of each the three municipal forms of government (mayor–council, council–manager, and commission systems) outlined in the chapter?

2. In most council–manager forms of government, a city manager serves as the day-to-day administrator. Should such an unelected official be allowed to exercise this level of authority? What are the problems with such an arrangement? What checks can be placed on city managers? What are the benefits of removing city managers from an electoral connection?

3. Most localities are limited in their ability to raise their own revenue. However, some states permit localities to impose their own taxes, in addition to property taxes, as a way to raise revenue. Should this practice be adopted by all states? If so, why?

4. Despite the proximity of local government, citizens remain apathetic to the governmental process and local political participation consistently remains low. What are some ways to increase political participation at the local level? Why are citizens less likely to vote at the local level than at higher levels of government?

5. Dillon’s Rule severely limits the discretionary authority of localities. Should states grant localities more policymaking authority, or should they continue to limit local governmental power to avoid policy confusion and provide for policy consistency within a state?

6. Can you identify the governmental services that have been provided to you since you got up this morning? Were those services federal, state, local, or a combination of efforts? How were they paid for? Do you think that all localities provide similar services? What might be different from one locality to the next?