**For Discussion**

1. What is low-density and high-density development? Are there pros and cons to each? What are they? Should cities always emphasize high-density development? Are there are any potential problems with such high-density development strategies as “smart growth”?

2. Despite the fact that suburban growth often leads to racial and economic segregation, people continue to move to the suburbs. Why? What can local governments do to increase the appeal of urban living? Are there any incentives local government can offer to encourage individuals to live in more urban areas?

3. The text uses the example of Des Moines and Polk County, Iowa, when discussing city–county consolidation. The city and the county consolidated correctional facilities. Are there any areas in which city–county consolidation might not work despite overlapping jurisdictions?

4. Are the assumptions of the Tiebout Model realistic? Why or why not? How could the model be revised? Do the assumptions hold for a large enough portion of the population for the model to be useful in discussing government reform? What are some alternatives to the model?

5. Should the federal government be more involved in promoting government consolidation of metropolitan areas? Should state government be more involved? Should there be federal and/or state guidelines mandating government consolidation under certain conditions?

6. What are the factors that led to metropolitan development and growth? When did metropolitanization begin, and what factors fueled it?