

10.2. You are a Hollywood film producer. You have just been tried in federal court for agreeing to buy five ounces of cocaine. The judge deferred final judgment of your case for a year but put you on probation and offered you this challenge: "If you put your talents to work fighting drug abuse by children, I will wipe your record clean." You feel remorse for your own drug use and resolve to meet the challenge. Identify and solve this problem; then refine your best solution.

10.3. Michael is very excited. He has just got his first job, delivering newspapers in a residential neighborhood. The only problem is that he has to pass several large dogs on his route, and he has been afraid of dogs for as long as he can remember. Identify and solve Michael's problem; then refine your best solution.

10.4. Millions of U.S. adults are functionally illiterate. These people cannot decipher a bus, train, or airline schedule; write a letter; or fill out a job application. Such illiteracy is estimated to cost the United States billions of dollars annually in welfare and unemployment payments. With the federal government decreasing its aid to education, that cost is likely to increase. Apply your creative and critical thinking to this problem as you did in previous applications.

10.5. The "don't ask, don't tell" policy in the U.S. military was enacted during the Clinton administration to provide a way to gays to serve without directly challenging the long-standing belief that homosexuality is incompatible with military service. President Obama has stated his opposition to that policy and his belief that gays should be allowed to serve openly, and in 2011 the policy was ended. That decision enjoys considerable public support and it is one that has been adopted in the armed forces of most of our allies. Yet the issue remains controversial. Research the issue, decide which view is most reasonable, and explain your thinking, taking care to anticipate and respond to possible objections.

10.6. Hardly a week goes by without some conflict about religion in schools being reported in the news. Many people believe that there is no reason to bar expressions or symbols of religion from public schools. Many others think such expressions and symbols are unconstitutional. Even the U.S. Supreme Court is divided on the issue, so it is understandable that many other Americans aren't sure what to think. Research the issue, being sure that you understand not just the side you are inclined to agree with but the other side, as well. Also, consider whether there might be a middle ground between the two sides. For example, instead of banning all symbols or expressions of religion, *including* all; or, banning some things, such as devotion, but including others, such as historical information. After completing your analysis, decide which view is most reasonable, and explain your thinking, taking care to anticipate and respond to possible objections.

10.7. President Lincoln introduced the income tax to America and authorized a federal agency to oversee its collection. In the early twentieth century, the 16th amendment to the Constitution confirmed Lincoln's decision. Unfortunately, a number of presidents from both parties have used the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for their own political ends. A blatant example of such misuse is the discriminatory treatment of conservative groups, notably "Tea Party" groups, that was brought to light early in 2013. For this and other reasons, many people believe the time is right to abolish the IRS and replace the current tax process with a "fair tax" or "flat tax." Research this issue, paying particular attention to the effects, both positive and negative, that might be produced by such a change. Then decide your position on the issue and defend it.

10.8. In Application 7.4 you applied your creativity to a question concerning the view of romantic love many people have when they enter marriage (see page 125). Refine your best solution to that application, using the approach explained in this chapter.

10.9. In Application 9.2, you applied your creativity to a question concerning the elderly in this country (see page 162). Refine your best solution, using the approach explained in this chapter.