

Write a small paragraph for each question

Chapter 12 - Cobb's Questions

1. Why do you think many people find it difficult or uncomfortable to discuss racial/ethnic issues publicly?
2. Do you know any racists? Do you think they consider themselves to be "racist"? What kind of behaviors do they display? Will they ever change their minds?
3. Have you ever been the victim of discrimination on any basis, racial or otherwise?
4. Do you think Barack Obama's presidency changed the way people in this country view race? Why or why not? Explain.
5. Will racism always exist? Why or why not?

Chapter 8 - Cobb's Questions

1. Can you think of any "shaming" techniques that were used by your elementary, middle-school, or high school teachers? If so, were they effective?
2. According to various studies, the American prison population is 38% African-American, 93% male, and about 95% of prisoners do not have a college education. Do these numbers indicate problems with the criminal justice system in this country? Why or why not? Explain your answer.

3. Do you support capital punishment (the death penalty) as a government-sanctioned punishment? Why or why not?

Chapter 21 - Cobb's Questions

Take a visit to snopes.com
([Links to an external site.](#))
[Links to an external site.](#)

and locate three urban legends which you find interesting. Write one paragraph describing each urban legend and why you chose it. Number them 1, 2, and 3.

Chapter 4 - Cobb's Question

1. "Master status" is any social status that has extra importance to our social identity. For most people, occupation is a master status. For celebrities, who we get to "know" through the media, real or perceived character traits also come into play. Here is a list of famous people. What would you say is each one's master status?

1. Kim Kardashian
2. Donald Trump
3. Caitlyn Jenner
4. Justin Bieber
5. LeBron James

Do you think the master status of any of these people has changed during their public lives? Explain.

2. Erving Goffman's theory of dramaturgy posits that people are "actors" in their daily lives. Goffman felt people were in character when around other people in order to be "socially acceptable" and successful.

Do you believe this is true? How far could one get in our society if he or she was bluntly honest at all times? Goffman called the deliberate attempt to control how others see us "impression management." In what ways do people try to influence the way others will receive them?

3. Harold Garfinkel's theory of ethnomethodology is focused on the CONTEXT of language:

<http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/courses/ethnomet.htm>

For a bit of fun, get into a conversation with a friend or family member and start insisting that they say what they REALLY mean. In other words, put them on the spot and make sure they explicitly state what they mean. See how long it takes before they get annoyed. I bet it won't take long! Let us know what happens.

Chapter 3 - Cobb's Questions

1. How do you believe the social environment has impacted Jesco White's life? Think of education, government, religion, peer groups, mass media, etc. Explain your reasoning.

2. Do you think Jesco would have turned out differently were he born in a different place with different life circumstances? Imagine

if he were born in Chicago and his parents had college degrees. Would he be "the same guy" in that world?

Chapter 13 - Cobb's Questions

1. At what age is a person no longer "young"? At what age does a person become "old"? Explain.
2. Do you think that society views the aging process differently for men and women? If so, in what ways?
3. If we could magically eliminate aging tomorrow, what would you consider to be the "best age" to be, and remain at, forever?
4. Here's a news story about a 33-year-old man who married a 104-year-old woman:

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/world/man-33-marries-woman-104/2006/05/03/1146335794619.htm>

What is the maximum acceptable age difference between partners in a romantic relationship? From a gender perspective, does it matter at all whether a male or the female is the older person in the relationship?