## **Chapter 2 Discussion Questions**

### 2.1.1 Sociologist in the News

Review the examples of sociologists in the news within the table. Sociologists’ research is often used in newspapers and news stories. Notice the topics of these articles related to smoking, gender, the college experience, social change, and technology in society.

Within your journal, share which of the five articles most interest you and why. Briefly discuss a topic you would choose for **Step 1: Define the Question or Problem**. What would you want to learn from your research?

| **Sociologists in the News** | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Title of Newspaper or Website Article** | **Article Publication** | **Author and Summary of Article** |
| *Researchers Find No Significant Change in Smoker’s Habits After Smoking Ban* | News Medical  (March 4, 2015) | Sociologist Sylvia Kairouz of Concordia University found that a smoking ban in public places in Quebec, Canada had no impact on their smoking habits in the home. |
| *Gender Gap in Caribbean Broadens as Women Rise in Workforce, White Men Stagnate* | Fox News  (February 11, 2015) | Camille Hernandez-Ramdwar at Canada’s Ryerson University researched Caribbean culture and commented that despite women’s advanced economic empowerment, Caribbean women still must contend with males dominating the justice, social, political, and religious systems. |
| *What Makes a Positive College Experience?* | New York Times  (April 3, 2014) | Daniel F. Chambliss, an organizational sociologist at Hamilton College, discusses his view that dormitory layout and social life determine students’ satisfaction with their college experience more than academics. |
| *Social Change Accelerates Across Generations* | USA Today  (February 26, 2014) | Cornell University sociologist Daniel Lichter states that changes will accelerate on issues such as same-sex marriage, interracial marriage, legalization of marijuana, and childbearing among the unwed. |
| *Technology Is Not Driving Us Apart After All* | New York Times  (January 19, 2014) | Rutgers University sociologist Keith Hamptom, 30 years later, reenacts a 1981 study by urbanist William H. Whyte explores how people used public space in New York City’s Bryant Park; findings reveal that more people nowadays, especially women, hang out in public areas and that cell phone use is not prevalent. |

### 2.2.1 Quantitative vs. Qualitative Research

Based on your readings and personal preferences, which research design would you select if you were required to choose one or the other? (Would you choose *quant*itative or *qual*itative research?) Explain your rationale.

Within the research design you selected, which research method would you use to conduct a study of interest? Explain why you chose one method over the other.

### 2.3.1 Longitudinal Research

What are the benefits of conducting a long-term study? Are there any risks?

### More Than a Theory

### 2.3.2 Functionalist

Would a quantitative or qualitative approach be more effective in obtaining general data on the crime rates of boys?

### 2.3.3 Conflict

Which research techniques discussed in this chapter might be helpful analyzing previously conducted research on boys and crime from the standpoint of social class or race and ethnicity?

### 2.3.4 Symbolic Interactionist

How would interviewing the relatives and friends of the boys in the study offer insight into their behavior?

### 2.4.1 Case Studies

What would your focus be if you were to do a case study? Why do you feel it is important to delve deeply into your topic, and what would you hope to learn? How might using the sociological imagination be beneficial to your research?

### 2.5.1 Technology and Research

What are some ways in which technology might be used to conduct sociological research? How about social media? For example, is either Twitter or Snapchat possible as a research tool? In what ways? What about other forms of social media?