## **Chapter** 8 **Writing Assignment**

Complete the following questions about social stratification and inequality to review your critical understanding of the concepts presented in this chapter.

### Know the Facts:

List the four systems of stratification and four types of social stratification that are structural impediments to social mobility.

### Understand the Concept:

Using your sociological imagination, discuss how social mobility is less about individual effort and achievement and more about structural issues.

### Apply What You Know:

Kim-Ly is a 32-year-old first-generation Vietnamese-American with a high school diploma. She is working as a waitress and has two toddlers. Kim-Ly works 30 hours a week at a restaurant and 20 hours at a motel as a housekeeper. She can barely pay for daycare, food, rent, and utilities. Someone recently commented that Kim-Ly should get a better job and one with health insurance benefits. The person states that it is her own fault that she is in the predicament that she is in because she chose not to go to college.

How would you respond to this person's comments based on your knowledge of social stratification and inequality?

### Analyze It:

Knowing that it is difficult to change or modify social structures within a society, what is one social structure you would choose to address that would have the most significant impact on addressing issues of social inequalities in the U.S.? Why?