Part III, Section 3

Additional Essay Questions: Voices within Canada

Mental wellness in Canada's Aboriginal communities: Striving toward reconciliation. (p. 216)
Patricia Boksa, Ridha Joober, and Laurence J. Kirmayer

1. In the closing "suggestions," the authors stress the importance of remembering that "there is not a single pan-Aboriginal identity." Support this claim with reference to two or three Aboriginal groups within Canada.

2. Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission was modelled, in part, on the extensive Truth and Reconciliation Commission held in post-apartheid South Africa in the 1990's. Compare the goals and methodology of these two commissions.

3. As the authors point out in paragraph 2, "[m]ore than half of Aboriginal people live in Canadian cities." What specific challenges might Aboriginal city dwellers face in achieving the kinds of positive enculturation described in paragraph 7?

A sorry state (p. 221)
Mitch Miyagawa

1. Miyagawa uses his own experiences to explore the idea of "institutional apology." Write a first-person essay to explore an issue of interest to you (e.g., student debt, lack of affordable childcare, bullying, etc.).

2. Miyagawa refers to three significant cases of apology by the Canadian government. Summarize these cases in a clearly organized essay.

The Senate and the fight against the 1885 Chinese Immigration Act (p. 228)
Christopher G. Anderson

1. In an essay, summarize the various arguments used by Senate members in favour of and against Chinese exclusionary practices in the late 1800s.

2. Discuss the term "xenophobia" and show how it relates to the treatment of the Chinese in the period discussed in the article.

3. In paragraph 24, Anderson writes "an opposition to discrimination did not necessitate admiration for the Chinese either as individuals or as a group. . ." Discuss the ramifications of this part of the essay in light of Anderson's main claims.

Missing in action: Gender in Canada's digital economy agenda (p. 235)
Leslie Regan Shade

1. The author refers to the "digital skills divide," suggesting that some members of Canadian society are not as educated in the use of information and communications technology as other Canadians. Using the rhetorical pattern of process analysis, write an essay for an audience of seniors, introducing the basics and benefits of using current technology such as a Smartphone or laptop.

2. Digital technology is readily available to most Canadians. Can we be too "connected"? Discuss both points of view in a well-organized essay and include examples.

Social Justice and social determinants of health: Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, intersexed, and queer youth in Canada (p. 41)
Deborah Dysart-Gale

1. This article focuses specifically on LGBTIQ youth and the social factors which potentially hinder their health and well-being. How might these factors differ for LGBTIQ senior citizens in Canada?

2. Dysart-Gale suggests that nurses should be at the forefront of improving the health and well-being of LGBTIQ youth due to the "professional nursing practice value of social justice." How does the role of nurses compare to that of teachers and social workers in terms of social justice?

3. According to this 2010 article, LGBTIQ youth "face greater risks to their health and well-being than do their heterosexual age-mates." Summarize these risks, and then argue which ones you consider most significant in the formulation of contemporary health initiatives in Canada.

Learning disabilities in Canada (p. 248)
Kim Calder Stegemann

1. In the Introduction to this article, Stegemann suggests that variations in policy across Canada's provinces and territories are problematic. What arguments could be made to support provincial

jurisdiction over educational policy and the corresponding differences in policies involving individuals with learning disabilities?

2. Analyze the author's use of statistics to support her arguments. What are the strengths and limitations of this type of evidence? What other research methods might be used to gather information about the nature and extent of learning disabilities in Canada?