

1. Scan current literacy journals such as *The Reading Teacher* or *Language Arts* for articles on prevalent practices in early literacy instruction. Visit the website for the Common Core State Standards or the standards for your state. Summarize your findings and report them to your class. How do the issues raised relate to the issues addressed in this chapter? How do the literacy journals respond to the government mandates on teaching reading?

2. Observe three different first-grade teachers instructing their students in beginning literacy. How might you characterize the methods they are using? In what ways are these educators responding to recent changes in educational methods? How do the educators describe the approaches they are using? What are their reasons for making the choices they did?

3. Survey several older adults in your area. Ask them how they think literacy is being taught in the local schools. From where have they obtained their information? Ask them what their recollections are about how they were taught to read. Do they believe that the methods used when they were in school were superior to those used today? What conclusions can you draw from this survey?