

## Addressing Problems of Diversity Today

Below are three contemporary problems of diversity. As a group, imagine that you are in the situations described. Decide how you would address each problem. Develop a plan for each. Use Diversity Checklist: ABLE on page 28 of *The Challenge of Diversity* to help you. Be prepared to describe your plan to the class.

### Case 1: Whose Dance Is It, Anyway?

Last year, black, Latino, and white students disagreed over the choice of music at the school dances at Rockford High. Whenever members of one group didn't like the music, they would refuse to dance and make fun of the people dancing. The school administration has grown so concerned that it has threatened to cancel the dances if the conflicts continue. You are members of the dance committee. How would you address this problem?

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### Case 2: Are You Following Me?

A local store close to Rockford High carries student supplies. Many minority students complain that store security guards follow their every move within the store. None has been stopped by the guards but the students feel intimidated and harassed. You are students at Rockford High. How would you address this problem?

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### Case 3: Is Bad News Good News?

KXXX—TV covers the local news in Rockford. Lately, this popular station has increased its focus on violence and youth crime. Now, the KXXX news van only comes to Rockford's poor and minority neighborhoods when there is a murder, robbery, or drug arrest. Young people and parents are complaining that the televised violence does not accurately reflect what is going on in their community. You are community members. What would you do to address this problem?

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### Diversity Checklist: Problem Solving

#### A B L E

Problems among groups, like other problems, can be confronted and solved. It takes skill and patience to tackle many problems. Use the tips in ABLE to help you solve problems.

**Analyze.** Take a good look at the problem. Discuss it with others. What are your goals? What results do you want to achieve? Are there any outcomes that you want to prevent? Write down your goals in order of importance.

**Brainstorm.** What could you do to achieve your goals? Brainstorm a list of ways you could respond to the situation.

**Limit.** Limit your list to those items that have the most promise. Try to get your list down to no more than five items.

**Evaluate.** Weigh each option. Is it likely to achieve your goals? What other results might it have? How might other people respond? Based on your goals, select the best option.