Chapter 6

6.1 Critical Thinking

1. Which characteristics do you think are the most important for police officers to have? Why?

Police should be fair, just, alert, and have strong problem-solving abilities. Reasons will vary.

2. Is there an operational style of policing that you think is the most effective? If so, which one?

You may answer that the legalistic style is best for high-crime areas, the watchman style is best for small towns with low crime rates, and the service style is best for everywhere else. Alternatively, you may recommend that elements of each style be implemented everywhere.

3. Do you think it is possible to identify styles of policing? If so, how can it be done? If not, what obstacles prevent identification?

The obvious answer is that, since many different researchers have discovered policing styles, it is possible to identify them. However, you may note that most police work involves using a mix of different styles in different situations, making it difficult to identify one in particular.

6.2 Critical Thinking

1. What do you think are the pros and cons of being an investigator or detective? Does this type of work sound attractive to you?

Pros could include tracking and catching criminals; cons could include the low closure rate for most types of cases, or the frustrations and logistical obstacles when trying to locate criminals or witnesses. Opinions regarding this type of work will vary.

2. Do you think there are any ways to protect individuals and businesses from becoming victims of cybercrime? If so, what do you propose?

Police information centers and hotlines, software that detects viruses in e-mails and refuses to deliver them to the recipient, or Caller ID—style software that tracks people who interact with one s computer system (such as people accessing electronic data files, or people communicating with one s children) are all helpful possibilities.

6.3 Critical Thinking

1. Can you think of ways to make community policing even more effective?

Answers can include implementing new recruiting and hiring qualifications that focus more on social and problem-solving skills, and creating special community policing units.

2. Do you think there is a certain operational style that is most appropriate for community policing? If so, which one?

The service style is most appropriate for community policing because it promotes communication and partnership. The watchman style has a few qualities that make it suitable, but

its overall lack of involvement does not make it the best choice. The legalistic style is not

appropriate for community policing because it is too aggressive.