

Chapter 7

7.1 Critical Thinking

1. Why do you think that racial groups differ so greatly in their attitudes toward the police?

This occurs for a variety of reasons, including more negative experiences with police (for a variety of reasons, including police prejudice), specific issues like racial profiling, high-profile cases involving black victims of police brutality, and the fact that most police officers are white.

2. What do you think could be done to improve public attitudes toward the police?

Police should tone down or eliminate behavior that injures the public's confidence, such as racial profiling or other discriminatory behavior. Also, community policing will help the public understand the police's jobs better and thus make them more understanding, while increasing police accountability to the public.

3. How accurate do you think the public's perceptions of the police are?

Since it is difficult to measure crime rates, and therefore police success rates, it is difficult to gauge the public's reaction to the police against an objective standard. Whatever your views of the public's perceptions of the police, be sure to understand that your views are probably based on your own biases and experiences.

4. How do the perceptions presented in this section compare with our own?

However your perceptions compare to the statistics in the chapter, ask yourself why discrepancies might exist.

7.2 Critical Thinking

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

The three I's of policing is a good answer, but you should also name many more, such as compassion, quick thinking skills, and common sense.

2. How much formal education do you think police officers should have? Why?

There are proven benefits that result from hiring police officers with at least two years' college education.

7.3 Critical Thinking

1. What do you think are the best ways for police officers to handle stress on the job?

You should note that many of the stressors listed in the book have to do with the ways in which police organizations are set up. Because of this, it is often outside a low-ranking officer's power to change it. Also, officers live in a constant state of not knowing what will happen next in regard to their encounters with the public. Therefore, police need to maintain a state of relative calm in order to avoid excessive stress when stressful situations occur.

2. What do you think are the best ways to recruit new police officers?

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CRITICAL THINKING ANSWER KEY

As the text states, the emphasis should be on people who appear honest, intelligent, and articulate; this refers back to the three I's discussed earlier. You should have an understanding of how these personality traits will affect one's work as a police officer.