

## **Chapter 9**

### **9.1 Critical Thinking**

1. What do you think are some of the most important issues to consider when sentencing a convicted criminal?

Issues can include the severity of the offense, the attitude of the offender (Is he or she remorseful?), the offender's record, and the impact on the victim.

2. Do you think that victims should play more or less of a role in sentencing?

Some people feel that they should have a greater role in demonstrating how their lives were harmed by the offender, and that they should be protected from defense lawyers who attempt to harass them. Others worry that victims will become vindictive and expect the court system to tailor the punishment to fit the victim's wishes.

**9.2 Critical Thinking:** Why do you think so few appeals are successful? Do you think the appeals process works effectively? Why or why not?

One reason is that legal factors are usually not sufficient to warrant a reversal of the lower court's findings. You should be able to name other reasons.

### **9.3 Critical Thinking**

1. Do you think the death penalty helps to prevent crime in the United States? Why or why not?

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CRITICAL THINKING ANSWER KEY

Although the death penalty has not helped to prevent crime, some people believe that its main purpose is not general deterrence but *specific* deterrence. In other words, it is perfectly effective in keeping a particular criminal from committing another crime, but does not work in preventing others from committing crime.

**2.** Do you think the death penalty should continue to be legal in this country? Why or why not?

Answers will vary widely, as will the reasons behind people's answers. Try to base your answer on objective reasoning rather than personal emotion.