

# DEVELOPING A RESEARCH QUESTION

- Start exploration of the Honors Study Topic with a broad examination of *To the Seventh Generation: Inheritance and Legacy*.
- Read and reflect on introductory essay on pages 5-7.
- Read and review the 7 themes and their introductions beginning on page 8.
- Consider themes that trigger your chapter's curiosity and passions.
- Discuss possible issues relevant to the themes that genuinely interest your team and consider how those issues relate to your campus and community.
- Explore what's current in the national and international news, on your campus, and in your community. You are building contextual knowledge that will direct your team toward a theme and help you develop a question that will direct your initial research.
  - From your contextual knowledge, use your observation to help lead your team to a research question.
  - Explore issues within the themes. Remember, not all issues are specifically stated in the theme, as this is an intellectual framework and a guide to provoke discussion. As you choose a theme, consider which theme seems most relevant to the intellectual curiosities of your chapter members.
- Make sure the pursuit of your intellectual curiosity is interdisciplinary and global. Though your chapter will likely work at the local level, be sure to initially consider your theme through an international lens.
- From your team's observations, begin developing research questions by asking:
  - What do we want to find out about our research topic?
  - What research have scholars conducted already?
  - What remains undiscovered about this topic?
  - What are the relevant and credible sources, and how readily available are they?
- Remember, when you answer research question(s), two important developments can happen that are normal parts of the process:
  - The scope and nature of your question can change.
  - Your theme may change based on what your team finds.
- Sample Research Question: To what degree have inherited understandings of freedom of the press guided societies worldwide? (Theme 6)

