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INTENDED USES OF THIS BOOK

This book can be used with students to develop the following skills:

1. Creative Problem Solving
2. Higher Level Reasoning/Thinking
3. Group Dynamics, including:
 - a. Leadership
 - b. Communication
 - c. Conflict Resolution
 - d. Team Building

The content of this book can be used in the following courses or subjects:

1. Debate/Communications
2. Sociology
3. History
4. Political Science
5. Social Issues/Problems
6. Creative Problem Solving
7. Human Relations/Attitudes
8. Group Dynamics
9. Philosophy/Ethics/Values
10. Religion
11. Minority Relations
12. Civics

SECTION ONE

THINKING ABOUT THINKING

Students should refer to this section of the book before and during all debates and discussions.

Planning for Thinking

This book is designed for the teacher and the student who desire to go further, dig deeper, and reason about the fundamental issues of contemporary living. The political/social cartoons stimulate reasoning and debate, and permit students to create their own cartoons and develop these into written research projects. This book is designed to allow students to discover uniquely creative outlets for their ideas.

Students may use these lessons individually or with a group. *The Mind Builders* activities are specifically designed to be used in small group situations. Small groups effectively promote discussion, leadership, and communication skills. Many ideas can be presented and evaluated. It will be the responsibility of the teacher to give guidance as their students begin the process of analysis and creative evaluation. Both teacher and student have the opportunity to turn these carefully designed activities and mind building exercises into products that will be useful for years to come.

The purposes of this book are:

1. To engage students in the process of re-thinking significant human problems
2. To provide students with practice in communications and other group dynamics skills
3. To assist students in developing their reasoning skills capacity
4. To help students develop team building and leadership skills

DILEMMA DEBATE #22: THEN IT'S SETTLED

Most government officials are honest and desire to serve the public interest. Most of them give effective and efficient service and deserve more recognition than they receive. But, on occasion, even honest officials can easily fail to distinguish clearly between their private interests and the public interest. They sometimes get these two confused, assuming that their private interest is or ought to be the public interest also. Thus, they sometimes find it difficult to determine what morality in office really is.

Some people believe that standards of public morality have been steadily rising, even though they may not be improving as rapidly as the times demand. They comment that though there are occasional slumps or dips in the long-time trend, our standards in political life, at least at the national level, are higher today than at the beginning of this century and certainly much higher than in colonial days. We are slowly developing a concept of general welfare that gives us "a working pattern for public ethics," which says that "private profit by public servants, whether or not it is achieved at the expense of the public welfare, is corrupt."

A minority of governmental officials have carried on practices that have lowered the prestige of government and its officials. Anyone who scans the newspaper headlines of recent years will find accounts of these practices. They involve, among other things, tax scandals, voting frauds, political decisions influenced by gifts, protection of criminals, and shady business deals involving public agencies.

The two cartoons in this section depict the efforts of members of the National Security Council to get around the Bolen Amendment to a Treasury funding bill—in effect, to rewrite the law to suit their purposes. During the 1987 hearings, details of possibly illegal dealings with the Iranians and with the Central American Contras were elicited. Also, high profits made by some of the men involved were alleged. Because the law and the social order can never be a seamless garment of right, we must constantly judge our governmental system and alter it if alterations seem justified.

Activities:

1. Read the following and summarize their findings in a written review:

"Past and Present Standards of Public Ethics in America: Are we improving?" *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Vol. 280., pp. 1-8. Author: Estes Kefauver.