**The Slipping Middle Class Status**

1. In the past 5 years, what percent of people have stopped identifying themselves as middle class? Over the same 5 years, what percent of all Americans now identify as lower-middle or lower class?

2. Although most people still identify as middle class, what is significant about this new poll?

3. What evidence is there that the gap between the richest Americans and everyone else has widened?

4. Why is a shrinking middle class a problem for the whole economy, the whole country? What examples from history can you use to show that a shrinking middle class or a polarized society—a few rich, a large lower class—is dangerous to all (think back to World History)?