

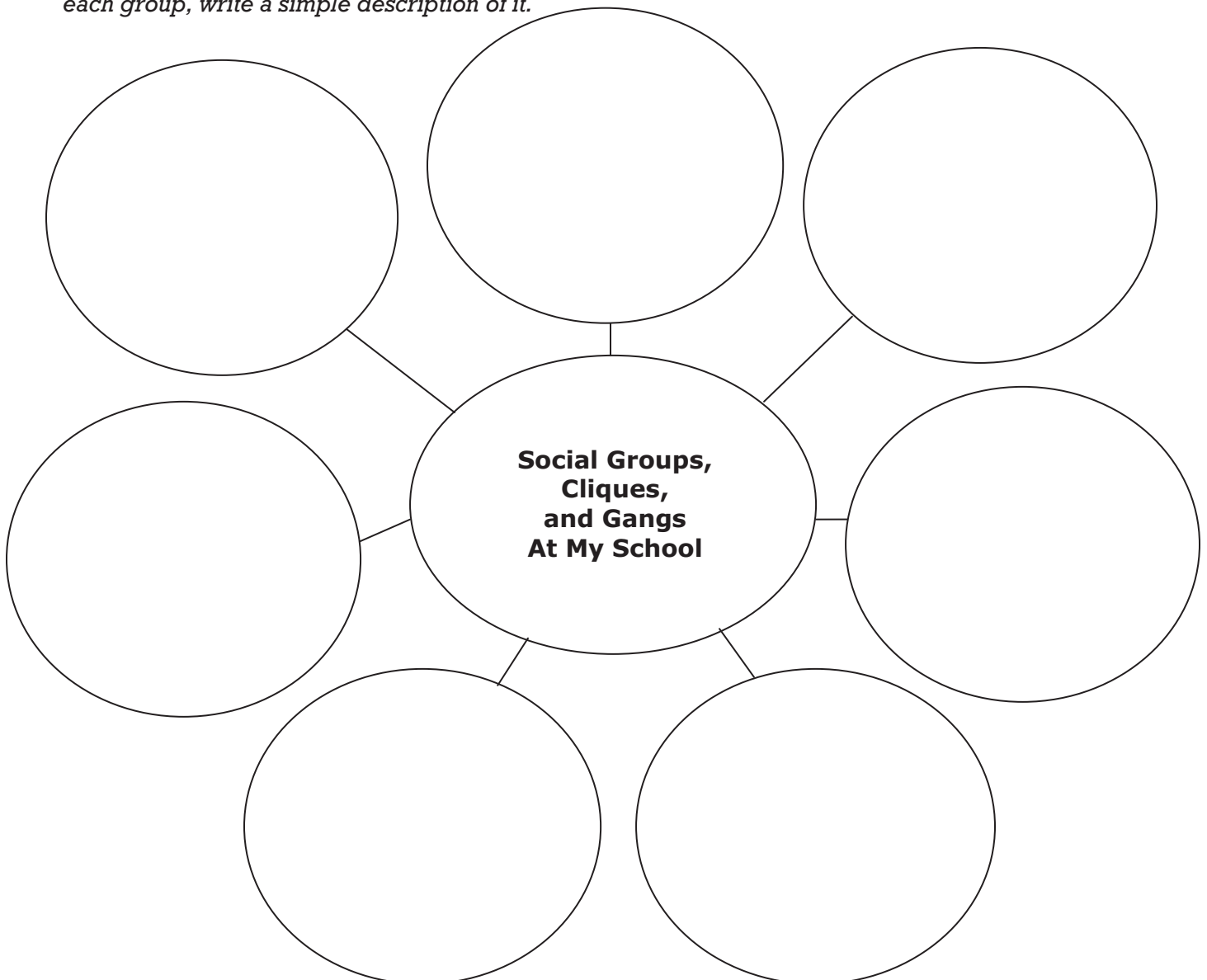
Social Cliques and Stereotyping

Chapters 7-9

Think about the people who go to school with you each day. Are all of them people you would choose to be close friends with? Would you want to spend your free time with many of them, or would you rather stay clear of them at all costs? All of us make choices in our lives about how we want to live, and our choices usually dictate who our friends are. The lifestyle we choose works well for us when there are others who share the same basic personal interests, hobbies, philosophies, or activities. For example, if you love gardening, you would probably not choose to spend most of your time with someone who cares only about playing the guitar. If your religion is important to you, you would most likely want to associate with others who have similar beliefs.

Part One

Directions: In the graphic organizer below, write down a name for each of the social groups at your school. For example, you may have a group that is basically referred to as the Athletes or Jocks, and another that is called the Geniuses. Think of as many as you can and write the name of the groups in the bubbles. (If there are not enough bubbles, extend the line out and draw more.) After the name of each group, write a simple description of it.



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Part Two

1. The names you have chosen for your social groups may be different from your classmates. If so, do you think some of your classmates show prejudice against others? Do you show prejudice? How can the words you choose affect others? _____

Directions: Using the front and back of three separate sheets of paper (or more if necessary), write the name of each of the social groups from p. 50 at the top of each page, giving yourself enough room to answer questions 2-4 about each individual group.

2. Describe each group. How do its members act around others? How do they dress? Is this a large group with a lot of people involved, or is it a small group with just a few people who want to belong?
3. How is it decided who belongs to each group? Is there an initiation or other method of becoming a member of the group, or do those people in the group just “make friends” or “hang out” together?
4. Do people put themselves into a group, or do others somehow get them to join the group? Once you are a member of a particular group, how easy or how hard is it for you to change from one group to a different one if you want to?

Directions: On the lines below, answer the following. Use the back of your paper or a separate sheet of paper if you need more room to write.

5. How can someone change their social status? Is it an easy task? How difficult is it for someone to enter a social group? Does it depend on the group to which they want to belong? Are some groups easier or harder than others to join? _____

6. How do you feel about the social class system? Do you think the system is fair? How would you change it if you had the power? _____
