

## The Big Ideas

### School-to-Home Connection

Although regionalisms are not as starkly different today as they were in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, regional differences can still influence people's lives tremendously. People are influenced by socioeconomic conditions, regardless of whether they grow up in a rural, suburban, or urban environment. And yet, there are still differences in the way people speak in different parts of the country. Thanks to the media, we are more and more aware of realities other than our own—from “living the American dream” to suffering from unemployment and homelessness.

### ACTIVITY

**Directions** Think about the unit's three Big Ideas: Regionalism, Realism, and Naturalism. Using the following questions as a guide, talk with one or two people at home about how these Big Ideas affect your life today.

1. Does the area in which you live affect your culture, values, or way of speaking? Why or why not?

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2. How does the media contribute to your sense of reality? Do you think you are more aware of other people's lives than you used to be? Do you think the media paints a skewed picture of the “real” lives of Americans or a fair one? Discuss your opinions.

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3. How do you feel about the idea of nature vs. nurture? That is, do you think you are controlled by your genes, or do you think environmental factors have more influence on your life?

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4. Do you think that loyalty to a region's culture does more harm or more good in the United States today? Why?

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