Teacher Instructions:

Problem Scenario: “Not Just Another Work Day”

The Main Problem:
The day after Thanksgiving (known as “Black Friday”) has always been a huge shopping day. Stores have done so well, in fact, that they open earlier each year to allow more time for shoppers. Recently, many places have opened their doors on Thanksgiving Day, causing quite a stir. Why is this such a controversy, and should stores be open on Thanksgiving?

Should stores open on Thanksgiving?
Students will review the controversy that surrounds stores being open on Thanksgiving Day and then decide what the correct course of action is.

Step 1
Review Stimulus Items

Stimulus Item #1 — “Stores to Open on Thanksgiving” (video)
Stimulus Item #2— “Should Stores Be Open on Thanksgiving?” (Online Discussion Board)

ALTERNATE Stimulus and Activity for Lower Grades — “All About Black Friday ” (infographic)

**Students should take notes as they review the Stimulus Items

Step 2
Classroom Discussion

Lead a class discussion about issues related to the Stimulus Items.
You are being provided a sheet to help you guide the classroom discussion.

Extended Responses: Have students answer the following questions. Remind students to use information from the Stimulus Items to support their response.

1. Why do retail stores want to remain open on Thanksgiving Day, and why is there controversy surrounding the issue?
2. Should major retail stores—such as Wal-Mart and Target—remain open on Thanksgiving Day? Defend your answer.

EXTENDED PRODUCT (Optional): Ask your students to write an editorial to their local newspaper to either defend the right of major retail stores (such as Wal-Mart and Target) to stay open on Thanksgiving, or to condemn this practice. The editorial should explain the student’s position, as well as give key points and evidence to support his or her argument. A great “thinking exercise” is to have students choose a position on this issue, and then have them write an editorial for the opposite position.

Rubrics to grade student entries have been provided, and all questions have been mapped to the content standards.