1. Many groups come to the U.S. as immigrants. In the case of Puerto Ricans, the U.S. came to them. Describe how the United States came to control the island of Puerto Rico.

2. Historian Gary Gerstle describes the contradiction of the U.S. exercising imperial impulses as it does in the Spanish American War. What is the contradiction? How is this question later played out in the status of Puerto Ricans after the war? How does Luis Muñoz Rivera describe living this contradiction?

3. Once Puerto Ricans have the opportunity to move about the United States, which port do most set out for? What are their initial intentions and how do their plans change over time?

4. Analyze and explain the meaning of Puerto Rico’s “Accidental imperial heritage of the Spanish American War?”

5. Explain the concept of a nation with two shores, in relation to the Puerto Rican experience.

1. Describe the setting in Puerto Rico in the late 1930s and early 1940s.

2. What did “Operation Bootstrap” mean for Puerto Rico?

3. What was the role of “el barrio” for Puerto Ricans living in New York City?

4. How were Puerto Ricans viewed in New York in the 1950s? Specifically how did the press portray Puerto Rican youth? Are there any parallels to how youth are sometimes portrayed in today’s media?

5. How did West Side Story and Rita Moreno’s success contribute to perceptions of Puerto Ricans in the mainstream of United States culture? Describe both positive and negative effects of West Side Story.

6. What were common practices in the education of Puerto Rican and Black youth during the childhood of Herman Badillo? What choices did Badillo make to alter his future opportunities? Can something as simple as deciding which class to register for still make a difference in your future as a student?

7. What was the impact of practices like “Literacy Tests” in shaping Puerto Rican voter participation?

8. What issues did Badillo champion during his political career? Are any of these still important issues today?