Empathizing (Religion in the Modern World)

Experiencing Diversity

Have the students reflect on the following questions in groups: (1) Who among your friends is of a different Christian denomination than you are? (2) Do you have friends of other faith backgrounds than yours? In either of these two cases, do you discuss religion? What are those discussions usually like? (3) Have you attended a religious service or ritual at a place of worship different from your own? What was that experience like? After some time, invite representatives to share their group’s responses and experience with the entire class.

Humanism and a Global Ethic

Have the students read through the excerpt from the Humanist Manifesto II on page 284 in the student book. Invite them to discuss, or write about, what they would agree with and why, and conversely, what they disagree with and why. Students who wish to read the entire document can find it on the American Humanist Association website, [*www.americanhumanist.org/Humanism/Humanist\_Manifesto\_II*](http://www.americanhumanist.org/Humanism/Humanist_Manifesto_II). They can do the same thing with the Declaration toward a Global Ethic from the 1993 Parliament of the World’s Religions. A source for the latter is the Parliament website, [*www.parliamentofreligions.org/\_includes/FCKcontent/File/TowardsAGlobalEthic.pdf*](http://www.parliamentofreligions.org/_includes/FCKcontent/File/TowardsAGlobalEthic.pdf).

The Latter-day Saints

Have the students visit the Latter-day Saints website ([*www.mormon.org*](http://www.mormon.org)). If you have Web-integrated projection in your classroom, the entire class can visit the site together. Then have the students discuss why they think the Latter-day Saints appeal to people today. What aspects of the Church do the students themselves find attractive? How would their lives be different if they were Mormon? Mormon missionaries are usually quite willing to give presentations to classes. They can be contacted through any Latter-day Saints church.