Welcome to the Companion Website for James M. Henslin’s sixth edition of Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach. You have chosen one of the finest textbooks on introductory sociology available. With the selection of Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach, you and your students are automatically enrolled as participants in a unique learning opportunity. Exciting challenges await you to explore sociology through Internet activities, interactive maps, annotated web links, and other exercises. There are also exercises in the Companion Website that will enlighten and stimulate your students about careers in sociology and provide them insight into what can prove to be an exciting career in human service.

To facilitate your understanding of the Companion Website, this Teaching Tool has been developed to help you integrate the Companion Website into your own teaching style and classroom environment. The Teaching Tool is also designed to help you connect the media assets assembled by Allyn & Bacon with the content your students are learning through your lectures and their textbook. The goal of this supplement is to allow you to use the Companion Website to its full benefit, for your teaching and for your students’ learning.

What is the Companion Website?

The Companion Website to Henslin’s Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach (6th ed.) is an interactive website that provides students with an exciting new way to learn course content. When your students buy a new textbook, they receive a full color textbook that also provides them access to the Companion Website. The Companion Website contains media assets including web links, activities, interactive maps, articles, resources on careers in sociology, and suggestions on how to use popular films as valuable learning tools.

How do you log onto the Henslin Companion Website?

1. Go to [http://www.ablongman.com/henslin6e](http://www.ablongman.com/henslin6e)
2. Begin by clicking on a chapter.

Bookmark the website before you leave, and remember to come back often!

The instructions for accessing the Companion Website are also found within both your complementary copy and the students’ textbooks.
TEACHING WITH THE COMPANION WEBSITE

The Companion Website adds variety to your course materials, motivating students to learn. It also places course content into real world settings, helping students apply their knowledge to different situations. Students, however, cannot experience these benefits if they are not using the Companion Website to learn. This Teaching Tool will provide solid instructional ideas to help you integrate the Companion Website into your existing course structure.

Assisting Students—Getting Started

If you have access to a computer lab, take the students step-by-step through the log on process. Have students access the homepage for Henslin’s Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach (6th edition) at [http://www.ablongman.com/henslin6e](http://www.ablongman.com/henslin6e) and follow along as you register for the site on your own computer.

If you do not have access to a computer lab, but have access to a computer and projection equipment, demonstrate the log-on procedure on your own computer. Take students through a tour of the Companion Website, showing them all the features they can access.

If you are teaching in a lecture class and do not have access to a computer, you can describe the log on process and what students might expect to see and do once they begin using the Companion Website.

To ensure that all students have registered for the site, you might ask them to do one activity or one practice test from the site during the first week of class. Since all activities and practice tests can be e-mailed to the instructor, this is a good way to confirm that each student has logged onto the site.

Here are suggestions on how you might incorporate the Companion Website into your classroom assignments.

Individual Writing Assignments

- **Using video as a stimulus for writing.** The Companion Website contains two types of video exercises. Most chapters have one or more short video clips that illustrate major concepts within each chapter. Students can access these clips by using the premium resource CD Rom that accompanies the Henslin text. After viewing the clips, students then answer the questions presented in the Companion Website or assigned by the instructor. Another unique use of video for learning is The Video Professor. The Video Professor is new for Henslin’s sixth edition. It incorporates contemporary and classic movies into a student’s course work by suggesting films related to the key concepts in each chapter, followed by essay and discussion questions.

- **Have students create a journal.** For every chapter, students must write in their journals about their favorite website from among the web links on the site and explain why it is significant within the context of the course.

- **Use the Web Links on the Companion Website** as the basis for essays or reaction papers. Create assignments around web links that bring current issues into course work. Students may wish to explore the new Content Select Activities for these assignments. In addition to the articles suggested as a part of the “featured articles” for each chapter, the student can uncover hundreds of other articles by just typing the “key words and concepts” into the search command box.
Collaborative Writing Assignments

By working in groups, individual student products are shared to produce a superior group product. Not only does this cut down on the number of papers the instructor needs to grade, but it also encourages students to learn from each other.

- Set up “electronic communities” of students and assign them an Internet activity from the *Companion Website* to complete cooperatively. Ask them to communicate about their ideas only through e-mail so they have to express themselves clearly in writing and so there is a record of each person’s contribution. As a part of the assignment, have them review the transcripts of their discussions and analyze what helped them learn and what helped them produce a good final product.

Practice Tests and Activities

- Each practice test and activity can be e-mailed to the instructor from the *Companion Website*. Choose a few activities and practice tests in each chapter and have the students e-mail you their work so you can monitor their progress in the class.

- Let students know that you will be selecting a few questions from the practice tests on the *Companion Website* to be used in their own exams. This will encourage students to test themselves and monitor their own progress.

Research

- Discuss with the students how to analyze a website for reliability. This is a good opportunity for students to learn about becoming discriminating Web users. Ask them how they might evaluate Web resources in the context of the five traditional print evaluation criteria: accuracy, authority, objectivity, currency, and coverage. Have them consider the following questions:
  
  ✓ Who is the creator of the site?
  ✓ What is the authority or expertise of the individual or group that created the site?
  ✓ Is there an evident bias in the site?
  ✓ Do the web pages have many typos and grammatical mistakes that may indicate a lack of editorial oversight and questionable accuracy of content?

- Encourage students to use additional references from the *Companion Website* in their term papers. Give them extra credit if they include online research in their work. The *Content Select Activities* can be very helpful to students for this purpose.

Class Presentation and Discussion

- Organize students into groups and have each group present the major points of one chapter in the book to the rest of the class. Suggest to the students that they use elements from the *Companion Website* in their presentations or as part of their research to create a multimedia presentation integrating electronic and print resources. This may be a good opportunity for the students to use the *Interactive Maps, Careers in Sociology, The Video Professor, Content Select Activities*, special web links, and other features from the *Companion Website*.

- Use the video excerpts from the *Video Activity* sections or selected films from *The Video Professor* as a springboard for classroom discussions and debates. Please note that the *Video Activity* section is contained
on the **Premium Resource CD Rom**. You can receive a **Premium Resource CD Rom** by contacting your local Allyn & Bacon representative.

### Large Classroom Assignments

- Assigning activities for large classes can sometimes be challenging. The activities listed for each chapter in this *Teaching Tool*, however, can be easily adapted in a variety of ways if you teach in a large classroom environment. The activities can be assigned to “electronic communities” or groups of students in the class, enabling them to collaborate on the work via e-mail outside of class. This will give students an opportunity to practice clear written communication, to collaborate on work, and to interact with other students and the instructor. Students can e-mail their results to you, or you can ask a member of each group to share his or her results with the class.

### How to Use This *Teaching Tool*

The *Teaching Tool* will show you how to implement the *Companion Website* in your course. As you plan your syllabus and lectures each semester, look to the *Teaching Tool* to provide discussion starters, classroom exercises, homework, and even test questions. The *Companion Website* should not be dismissed as a student supplement that they use at their own discretion. Because it offers such a potential benefit to students, the *Companion Website* should be an integral part of your course, as important as the textbook you chose to adopt. Among the menu items you will find available for your use to accent each chapter are the following:

- Learning Objectives
- Quizzes
- Practice Test
- True or False Exercises
- Flashcards
- Student Feedback
- Interactive Maps
- Web Links
- Sociology on the Internet
- Video Activities (available on **Premium Resource CD Rom**)
- Chat
- Message Board
- Sociology by the Numbers
- Content Select Activities
- The Video Professor
- Census 2000
- Careers in Sociology

In each chapter of this teaching tool you will find teaching notes for a selection of media assets on the *Companion Website*. Not every media asset is discussed in this manual. Each entry includes:

- **Annotation.** This briefly describes the media asset being discussed. For example, it might describe the action of a video clip or the content of a website.
- **Learning Objective.** Describes what the student will learn by reviewing the media asset.
- **Faculty Note.** Explains the purpose for using the media asset and what particular concept the asset will address.
- **Activity.** Suggests an activity that can be done in class, for homework, or as a long-term project based on the content of the media asset.
- **Additional Resources.** These are books, articles, or other websites that expand on the media asset.
- **Test Questions.** Multiple choice, essay, and True/False questions are provided so that you can assess students’ understanding of the media asset.

This information will help you use the *Companion Website* more fully in your course. Feedback on the *Teaching Tool* and the *Companion Website* is most welcome. Please feel free to contact Allyn & Bacon with your comments and suggestions on how we may better serve your needs. If you have a unique method of inspiring students to learn, please share it with us! Good luck.