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### Teacher's Guide For "Keeping Up"

#### ABOUT THE ACTIVITY

In some ways, this might be the most challenging activity in *Growing Minds*. It can take much time. In effect, it calls for a hard look at how our society operates and what improvements should be made now.

#### Level 1: Telling why an institution should be changed

In order for your students to respond to the first question, they must have a definition of *institution* in mind. In the sense it is used here, institution means "an organization having a social, educational, or religious purpose." They must then make a survey of the important institutions of the country and determine which of them is not being used effectively.

# Level 2: Determining which public service is not keeping up with the times and explaining what should be done

At this writing, one public service that is under intense scrutiny is health care. In recent times it has been law enforcement, and education always seems to be under fire. Your students may very well find several public services behind the times and in dire need of improvement.

<u>Level 3: Naming the public service that should be drastically changed and telling why</u>

During the debate about reforming public health care, one group took the position that the whole system was wrong and that we should change it radically.

#### Targeted Learner Outcomes: The student will:

- explain why an institution should be changed
- determine which public service should be brought up to date and why
- name the public service most in need of improvement and tell why

## **Keeping Up**

**A.** As we proceed through the 21st century, we are becoming more aware of how some elements of modern society have been able to cope with the great technological and social changes of the past 50 years, while others have become increasingly inappropriate and ineffective.

What institution (education, for example) could be changed because we don't seem to be able to use it effectively? Why?

B. What system of public service (libraries, for example) isn't keeping up with the times? What should be done about this?

C. What system of helping people (hospitals, for example) has been strained past its limits and should be discarded or drastically changed? Why do you think so?

