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Merton's Strain Theory of Deviance**CRITICAL THINKING STRATEGIES**

**Draw Conclusions** Review the chart with the class. Help students to understand the chart by asking questions such as the following:

- Which mode of adaptation is the most common? *conformity*
- Which modes would be considered deviant? *all but conformity*
- Which two modes might result in changing society's norms? *innovation and rebellion*
- What's an example of innovation attempting to change society's norms? *Answers will vary, but might include Napster or other entrepreneurial efforts.*
- What's an example of rebellion attempting to change society's norms? *Answers will vary, but might include the civil rights movement.*

**DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION STRATEGIES**

**English-Language Learners** Have volunteers read the chart to the class. Ask a different student to read each mode of adaptation. Help the volunteers with the pronunciation and meaning of the five modes. As a class, think of examples that fit each of the five modes.

Merton’s Strain Theory of Deviance

MERTON’S STRAIN THEORY OF DEVIANCE			
Merton suggested five responses to the strain that individuals feel when they attempt to meet the cultural goal of economic success through the approved norm of hard work.			
Mode of Adaptation	Method of Adaptation	Seeks Culture’s Goals	Follows Culture’s Norms
Conformity	Accepts cultural goals and pursues them through culturally approved ways	Yes	Yes
Innovation	Accepts cultural goals but uses disapproved ways of achieving them	Yes	No
Ritualism	Abandons cultural goals but continues to follow society’s norms	No	Yes
Retreatism	Abandons cultural goals and the approved ways of achieving them	No	No
Rebellion	Challenges cultural goals and norms and substitutes new ones	No—tries to replace	No—tries to replace