DISCUSSION

To summarize the thematic discussion, language teachers are very much “cultural workers” (Giroux, 1992), socializing students into new cultural/linguistic practices and helping them make new intercultural, cognitive, social, and affective connections. At the same time, the teachers are adapting to their contexts, roles, and identities, resolving incongruities, and gaining greater experience with each new cohort of students. Whether they are aware of it or not, language teachers are very much involved in the transmission of culture, and each selection of videos, newspaper clippings, seating plans, activities, and so on has social, cultural, and educational significance. But discovering how teachers think and work—how they conceptualize teaching, socio-cultural identity, types of knowledge, and their lives and careers—has until quite recently been neglected in ESL research (Richards, 1994).

1. Which of the following could be inferred as the main topic of this article?
   a. Teacher Education programs in Great Britain
   b. Teachers and their professional identities
   c. Cross-cultural communication among ESL students
   d. Study Abroad programs and foreign language learning

2. Underline the words in the article that could be potential sources of data for the study mentioned by the authors and then in the space below, suggest possible ways to collect that data (use as much space as needed).

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

© 2007 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota. These materials were created for the Virtual Item Bank as part of the Virtual Assessment Center created by the Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition at the University of Minnesota. Permission is granted to duplicate these materials for educational purposes. Permission to reprint must be sought from the CARLA office. For more information see: http://www.carla.umn.edu