Section Three: Understanding a Problem-Solution Essay

Although *The Fire Next Time* is essentially a work of persuasion, it also analyzes a complex problem and presents possible solutions. The problem is racism, and Baldwin proposes a variety of solutions to attack the problem at its core.

In each of the ovals, identify one of the solutions Baldwin proposes in *The Fire Next Time*. (One of the ovals has already been filled in for you.) Use quotations from the text or state the solutions in your own words. Then underline the one solution you think is the most effective.

**FOLLOW-UP:** Why do you think the solution that you underlined is the most effective one?
VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT: EXAMINING SYNONYMS AND CONNOTATIONS

Many words have synonyms, words with the same or similar meanings. However, not all synonyms can be used interchangeably; many have different connotations, or emotions associated with them. Use a dictionary or thesaurus to find a synonym for each of these words: *altercation* (p. 56), *intimidate* (p. 68), *exacerbate* (p. 75), *surreptitiously* (p. 96).