Religious Socialization, Conversion, and Switching

Objective:
1) Examine how individuals become religious, stay religious, or change their religion
2) Familiarize students with online research tools

Activity:
As a class, investigate how sociologists measure the processes of religious socialization, conversion, and switching (conversion experience, childhood religious identity, parent’s religious affiliation, friends at church, friends who are religious, religious intermarriage)

Assessment:
Drawing upon what they now know, direct students to write a response paper to one of the Ahead of the Trend articles that utilizes the concepts of socialization, conversion, and switching. At the archive page for Ahead of the Trend students can search the archive using the terms socialization, conversion, and switching.

Suggested reading:
“Attachment Theory” in “Religion Dictionary” in the Teaching Tools on The ARDA
“Conversion” in “Religion Dictionary” in the Teaching Tools on The ARDA
“Conversion Theory” in “Teaching Tools” on The ARDA
“Disaffiliation” in “Religion Dictionary” in the Teaching Tools on The ARDA
“Religious Preferences” in “Religion Dictionary” in the Teaching Tools on The ARDA
“Religious Social Networks” in “Religion Dictionary” in the Teaching Tools on The ARDA
“Religious Switching” in “Religion Dictionary” in the Teaching Tools on The ARDA