Marianne Gordimer grew up in your hometown, Black River Vermont, and her mother still lives there. Marianne is a senior Vice President in Dell Computer and a holder of substantial equity in that firm. She has just made a gift to the Black River School District of several hundred PCs complete with the networking software and hardware necessary to give all of the schools and every classroom in the Black River School District complete and high speed access to the Internet.

While this is a great gift, the school administrators are not quite sure how they will use all of this hardware and NetWare. So they have called together a community meeting of parents and leaders to brainstorm how best to take advantage of this opportunity. You have been named as a member of the community meeting to decide how Black River should make use of the Internet to support its Kindergarten through grade 12—(K-12)—education program.

Your first task is to brainstorm how the school system might use this new technology. For each application that you envision, be clear about who will use the technology (teachers, students, administrators, parents, etc.), what they will do with the technology, and why your proposed application is a good use of this new technology.

Your second task is to review the list of potential applications that you have just made and then to make a list of the key issues that the Black River School District will have to consider in order to make these applications work efficiently and effectively.

Black River is a community of 14,000 residents located at the junction of the interstates 91 and 93. Hence it has a modest light industrial base and considerable commercial development (two new malls have been constructed in the past eight years). In addition, Black River is only seven miles from Middleton, the location of Green Briar College, an elite liberal arts college. The population of Black River is hence quite diverse. There is a substantial community from Green Briar College living in Black River (faculty and graduate students live there), plus a healthy professional population layered on the traditional base of rural farmers who have been the "town fathers" in local politics for many years. Twelve percent of the students in the Black River School District live below the poverty line. Estimates are that up to 60% of the households in Black River have access to the Internet via, private Internet Service Providers (ISPS) or online services such as America On-Line.