1. At the beginning of the school year, a relatively quiet new beeping fire alarm was installed. When it went off one day for a fire drill in September, the students didn’t respond to this new sound. Teachers had to usher them out the doors. However, in October the new beeping alarm went off as the halls filled with smoke. Frightened students hurried out of the school to safety. In November, the beeping alarm went off again, and the students again hurried out fearfully. However, this time it was only a fire drill, so there was no fire. Then for 10 days straight in December, the alarm malfunctioned and went off daily. Now no one paid any attention to it again. After Christmas break, the alarm was repaired and went off as scheduled for a drill in January. Several students jumped anxiously, remembering the October fire. In two paragraphs, describe how students in this story were classically conditioned to that new beeping fire alarm. Use the terms *neutral stimulus*, *UCS, UCR, CR, CS, extinction,* and *spontaneous recovery.*
2. Imagine that your best friend, Joe, is afraid of dogs, including your dog, Dylan, a big friendly golden retriever. You know Dylan would never hurt Joe, but Dylan gets very excited when he sees Joe and he often jumps up on him. You have decided that you will shape Dylan’s behavior, so that he sits when he sees Joe, instead of jumping on him. In two or three short paragraphs, describe how you will use operant conditioning to shape Dylan’s behavior, and why you think your plan will work.
3. Elsie’s parents pay her to babysit her little brother and sister two nights a month. Everyone is happy with this arrangement—Elsie enjoys the extra money, her parents feel secure knowing she is with the younger children, and the younger children adore Elsie and look forward to these evenings. Elsie also enjoys the opportunity to watch TV shows that contain a lot of violent scenes—shows that Elsie’s parents would not let her watch if they were home. In two paragraphs of about three sentences each, explain to Elsie how this behavior may affect her younger siblings and why.