

Study Guide: Media Masters Rock! The AQBS Rule

Grade Level: 7th Grade

Subject Focus: Digital Literacy and Digital Citizenship

Objective:

Students will understand the importance of following the AQBS Rule (“Ask Questions. Be Skeptical.”) to think critically about emotional responses and content on social media, fostering responsible online behavior.

Before Watching the Video

Discussion Starter:

1. How do you usually feel when you see something shocking, sad, or exciting on social media? What do you do next?
2. Why might it be important to pause before reacting to something online?

Vocabulary:

- **Media Master:** Someone who acts responsibly and thoughtfully on the internet.
- **AQBS Rule:** A guideline to "Ask Questions" and "Be Skeptical" when encountering strong emotions or questionable content on social media.
- **Strong Emotion:** A powerful feeling, such as anger, sadness, or excitement, that can influence decisions.
- **Evidence:** Facts or information used to determine if something is true or false.

While Watching the Video

Key Points to Listen For:

- What is the AQBS Rule, and why is it important?
- Examples of questions to ask about emotions and posts.
- Why it's okay to take your time or not respond at all to social media.

After Watching the Video

Discussion Questions:

1. Why should we be skeptical of both our emotions and the things we see online?
2. Can you think of an example where someone reacted emotionally to a post and it caused problems? How could the AQBS Rule have helped?
3. What are some ways to verify if a post is true or false?

Activity: AQBS Question Practice

1. **Materials Needed:** Printed screenshots of fictional social media posts with a mix of strong emotional content, true facts, and misleading information.
2. **Instructions:**
 - In pairs, analyze each post using the AQBS Rule.
 - Write down questions you would ask about the post (e.g., "What's the evidence this is true?" or "Why does this make me feel angry?").
 - Share your findings with the class, including whether you would respond to the post and why.

Extended Learning

Reflection Activity:

Write a short paragraph about a time you felt a strong emotion from something online. How could the AQBS Rule have helped you respond differently?

Creative Task:

Create a poster with the AQBS Rule to display in your classroom. Include examples of good questions to ask and a creative design to catch attention.

Home Connection:

Talk with a family member about how they handle strong emotions when they see something online. Share the AQBS Rule with them and discuss how they might use it.

Wrap-Up

Media Master Pledge:

Work as a class to create an "AQBS Pledge." Include statements like "I will pause and ask questions when I feel strong emotions online" and "I will be skeptical of posts and seek evidence before believing or sharing them."

Teacher Note:

Encourage students to take their time when they encounter emotional content online. Reinforce the idea that not responding is a valid and often wise choice. Use real-world examples where skepticism led to better outcomes.

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