

Study Guide: Media Masters Rock! The AQBS Rule

Grade Level: 8th Grade

Subject Focus: Digital Literacy and Digital Citizenship

Objective:

Students will learn the importance of the AQBS Rule—"Ask Questions, Be Skeptical"—and how to apply critical thinking when navigating social media and reacting to online posts.

Before Watching the Video

Discussion Starter:

1. Have you ever seen a social media post that made you feel very angry, sad, or excited? What did you do next?
2. Why do you think it's important to pause and think before reacting to posts online?

Vocabulary:

- **Media Master:** A responsible and thoughtful internet user.
- **AQBS Rule:** A guideline to ask questions and be skeptical when encountering strong emotions online.
- **Skeptical:** Being cautious and questioning the truth of something.
- **Emotional Triggers:** Situations or content that cause strong emotional responses.

While Watching the Video

Key Points to Listen For:

- What does the AQBS Rule stand for?
- Examples of questions to ask when encountering strong emotions online.
- Why is it important to be skeptical about both your emotions and the post itself?

After Watching the Video

Discussion Questions:

1. In your own words, explain what the AQBS Rule means.
2. How can asking questions about your emotions help you make better decisions online?
3. Why is it sometimes better to not respond to a post at all?
4. Can you think of a situation where being skeptical about a post might have prevented a problem?

Activity: AQBS in Action

1. **Materials Needed:** Index cards or paper.
2. **Instructions:**
 - Provide each student with a card containing a sample social media post (e.g., “Breaking news!” or “Look what [celebrity] just said!”).
 - In pairs or small groups, students will use the AQBS Rule to:
 - Analyze the emotions triggered by the post.
 - Ask questions about the truthfulness of the post (evidence, source, etc.).
 - Decide on the best course of action (share, ignore, or investigate further).
 - Share their findings with the class.

Extended Learning

Reflection Activity:

Write a paragraph about a time when you reacted emotionally to a social media post. How could the AQBS Rule have helped you in that situation?

Creative Task:

Create a digital poster or meme explaining the AQBS Rule. Include slogans like “Pause Before You Post” or “Ask Questions, Be Skeptical” along with examples of questions to ask about emotional or suspicious posts.

Home Connection:

Discuss with a family member how they handle emotional responses to social media

posts. Share the AQBS Rule with them and ask how they think it could improve their online habits.

Wrap-Up

Media Master Pledge:

As a class, create a pledge to follow the AQBS Rule. Example statements might include:

- “I will ask questions before reacting to posts that make me emotional.”
- “I will be skeptical of posts without evidence.”
- “I will take time to think before I comment, share, or react online.”

Teacher Note:

Encourage students to practice the AQBS Rule regularly and reflect on how it changes their online interactions. Reinforce that critical thinking and emotional awareness are key to being a responsible digital citizen.

###