

Media Literacy & Technology

Discussion Starters

1. Discuss the word “media”. List types of print and electronic media.
2. Think about your daily media “diet”.
 - Which form of media is the most important in your life?
 - How do you use computer technology in your daily life?
3. Who holds the media accountable?
4. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of online classes.
 - Would you like to be involved in this type of learning environment?
5. Discuss whether reviews of books, movies, and videogames affect your personal choices.
6. Brainstorm new types of technology that will impact your home and the classrooms of the future.
7. Discuss the statement, “all people are equal online.”
8. What makes Wikipedia different from other encyclopedias?
 - Is this a reliable source?
9. There are many concerns about privacy and security online.
 - What is identity theft? What steps can you take to prevent it?
10. How has e-commerce changed shopping options?

11. Talk about how technology has impacted how you stay in touch with your friends. Think about e-mails, skype, v-mail, Facebook, YouTube, cell phones, text messaging, etc.
12. In an age of campaign websites, blogs, parodies, digital manipulation, soundbites, and 30-second TV and radio spots, how can voters know what to believe?
13. Imagine that you live in a developing country with no Internet access.
 - Discuss how your daily life is different from your actual life.
14. How has the Internet contributed to isolation and loneliness in our culture?
15. Are blogs good sources for information? Why/why not?
16. Pop-up ads on the Internet are a new form of advertising, which include contests, games, and other interactive strategies to lure users to other sites. Discuss their appeal.
 - How can you be a critical thinker about all advertising?
17. With instant worldwide “news” available via the Internet 24/7, how do you know what is real, what is propaganda, or what is a hoax?
 - Is there a need for a variety of news sources?
18. Discuss the interactivity of today’s media. Consider:
 - text messaging
 - voting for favorites on TV’s reality shows
 - websites for everyone (both personal and business)
 - e-commerce
 - social networking (Facebook, YouTube, etc.)
 - dating via Internet matching services
 - banking and investing

