

Study Guide: Media Masters Rock! The AQBS Rule

Grade Level: 6th Grade

Subject Focus: Digital Literacy and Digital Citizenship

Objective:

Students will learn to follow the AQBS Rule (Ask Questions, Be Skeptical) to think critically about social media posts and their emotional responses to them.

Before Watching the Video

Discussion Starter:

1. Have you ever seen a social media post that made you feel really angry, sad, embarrassed, or excited? How did you react?
2. Why do you think it's important to think carefully before responding to something online?

Vocabulary:

- **Media Master:** Someone who acts responsibly and thoughtfully on the internet.
- **AQBS Rule:** A way to respond to social media posts by asking questions and being skeptical.
- **Skeptical:** Having doubts about something or questioning its truth.
- **Evidence:** Proof or information that supports whether something is true or false.

While Watching the Video

Key Points to Listen For:

- What does AQBS stand for?
- Examples of questions you should ask about your emotions and a social media post.
- Why it's important to wait before reacting to strong emotions.

After Watching the Video

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the AQBS Rule mean in your own words?
2. Can you think of a time when you felt a strong emotion because of something online? What would you do differently after learning about the AQBS Rule?
3. Why is it important to ask questions about the truth of a post before reacting to it?




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.


EXAMPLES -

Viral Outrage Post





 **BREAKING NEWS!** 

A new law just passed that will BAN all video games for kids under 16!   Starting next month, game companies will be required to shut down accounts for anyone underage. Is this fair?!? COMMENT BELOW!  #SaveGaming #UnfairLaws

 **True Fact:** Some countries have introduced gaming restrictions for minors.

 **Misleading:** There is no such law in the U.S. banning all video games for kids under 16.





Celebrity Scam Post

 **OMG!** Taylor Swift just announced she's giving away \$10,000 to her first 1,000 followers who comment "SwiftieForLife" on this post!  Hurry before it's too late! 
 #TaylorSwift #CashGiveaway

 **True Fact:** Celebrities sometimes give money to charity.

 **Misleading:** This is a fake giveaway, likely a scam to collect personal information.

3. Emotional Hoax Post



  This poor puppy was abandoned at a gas station and has been crying for days! If you don't share this post, Facebook will delete it, and no one will help!   SHARE NOW to help save this puppy! #SaveThePuppy #Urgent

 **True Fact:** Animal abandonment is a real issue.


 **Misleading:** Facebook doesn't delete posts like this, and the story may not be true.

Fear-Mongering Post

 *DO NOT DRINK TAP WATER!* 



A new study shows that tap water in the U.S. contains dangerous chemicals that can cause memory loss and mood swings! Scientists say we should ONLY drink bottled water from now on! Stay safe!   #HealthWarning

 **True Fact:** Some areas have water contamination concerns.

 **Misleading:** Most U.S. tap water is heavily regulated and safe to drink.

Conspiracy Theory Post



 *NASA HIDING THE TRUTH?!* 



A leaked document reveals NASA has known about ALIEN CONTACT for years but is keeping it SECRET from the public!   Why aren't they telling us the truth?! SHARE if you think we deserve answers! #AliensExist

 **True Fact:** NASA studies space and the possibility of extraterrestrial life.

 **Misleading:** There is no leaked document confirming alien contact.

Fake Health Post

 *Doctors HATE this simple trick!* 

Did you know that eating **one marshmallow before bed** can CURE ANXIETY?! Scientists say this small habit improves sleep and lowers stress instantly! Try it tonight!   #HealthHack #LifeChanging

 **True Fact:** Some foods may influence sleep and mood.

 **Misleading:** There is no scientific evidence that marshmallows cure anxiety.

Discussion Prompts for Students:

- What questions should we ask before believing this post?
- Where could we check to see if this information is true?
- What emotions does this post try to trigger?
- Why might someone create and share this kind of post?

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 story about a character who follows the AQBS Rule after seeing a surprising post online. How do they stop, think, and make a wise choice? What happens as a result?

Creative Task:

Design a comic strip or digital poster showing someone using the AQBS Rule. Include the steps to "Ask Questions" and "Be Skeptical" in the story.

Home Connection:

Talk to a family member about a time they felt strongly about a post online. Share the AQBS Rule with them and discuss how it could help them in the future.

Wrap-Up

Media Master Pledge:

Work together as a class to create a pledge to use the AQBS Rule online. Include statements like:

- "I will ask questions about what I see online."
- "I will be skeptical of posts that make me feel strong emotions."
- "I will wait before reacting to social media posts."

Teacher Note:

Encourage students to practice the AQBS Rule at home and share examples of when they used it in class. Reinforce the idea that thoughtful online behavior makes the internet safer and more enjoyable for everyone.

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