

Intro

Getting Started



NO DOUBT, MEDIA IS A BIG PART OF YOUR LIFE.

It's such a big part that you and your peers have been labeled by some as "**Generation M(edia)**." Researchers tell us that the average teen spends 9 hours a day using media. Media and its messages are everywhere - **radio, TV, online, music, movies, magazines, smartphones, apps, computers, advertising, video games**.

We're told that if you're the "average teenager," you've got a game system, a smartphone, a TV in your room and your own computer. You've also got favorite singers, bands, movies, TV shows and games. With media occupying such a big part of your life, the media industry is always introducing new media "stuff" to grab your attention, money and allegiance.

But when it comes to your taste in media, **HOW** do you decide what's worth your time? **WHAT** standards do you use to decide what you like and don't like? **WHEN** it comes to media content, how do you personally judge what's "good" media or "bad" media?

Whether you know it or not, all of your media choices are based on some authority. Some people choose to pass judgment based on their own personal preference and feelings. Others decide what they like and don't like based on what they were raised to believe. Others share the tastes of friends.

Step 1

(D)iscover

Discovery is the process of thoughtfully and carefully listening, watching to hear, and seeing the underlying worldview* of the media piece. (*Not sure what a worldview is? See page 7 to learn more.)

In other words, **you're digging deep to discover the message communicated in the media.** Sometimes it'll be easy because the message is clear. Sometimes it'll be hard because the message isn't right there at the surface. But it's always important to take your time in the discovery process as there is always a message in every media piece. Involve your parents, youth worker and friends in this process. Gather information on the performer/writer and the rest of his/her media to give you a more balanced sense of who they are and what they believe.

As you watch or listen to a media piece, filter what you see and hear through these questions - questions that will help you get started on your quest to discover the underlying worldview of the song/show/ video/game/commercial/film/ artist/band:

QUESTIONS TO HELP GET YOU STARTED:

What's the **main topic or theme?**

What's the **mood** of the piece?

How is the piece intended to make **listeners/viewers feel?**
How does it make me feel?
Does it manipulate listener emotions in any way?

Does the piece make any overt or covert **suggestions on how to think, talk, act or live?**

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more than noise!

What does it say about the nature of **sexuality**?

What does it say about the nature and **purpose of family**?

What does it say about the nature of **love**? What does it say about how to express that love?

What suggestions are offered for **resolving conflict**?

How is violence portrayed? Is violence seen as positive or negative? Is violence portrayed as a form of conflict resolution?

What is the **worldview** communicated in what you are seeing and hearing?

Worldview!?

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MEDIA'S MESSAGE AND YOU.

Whether you know it or not, everybody's got a worldview. **It's the model, lens, framework and basic beliefs through which we view the world around us, our purpose in life and our future.** "A worldview describes the way the world is, while also providing a model for the way the world ought to be." – William Romanowski

Shaped from the day you were born, your worldview gives you answers - whether you've thought about them consciously or unconsciously - to these basic questions about life:

- "Where am I?" or "What is real?"
- "Who's in control?"
- "Who am I?" and "Why am I here?"
- "What's wrong with the world?"
- "How can I know right from wrong?"
- "What's the remedy for what's wrong with this world?"

Each of us lives our worldview every day. **It's the basis for what we think and how we act.** Some of us have consciously chosen our worldview. For others, our worldview is an unconscious collection of answers we've picked up along the way.

All popular media expresses and teaches a worldview by representing life in this world. What it boils down to is this - every song, every film, every artist, every video, every TV show, every game, every advertisement, every website, etc. communicates something to us about what to believe and how to live in this world. If you get in the habit of looking for the worldview, you'll find it!

Christians believe that a Christian worldview is shaped by the truths of God's Word - the Bible. **So who/what has shaped and is shaping your worldview? Who/what has shaped your view of God, truth, right, wrong, people, yourself, relationships, violence, authority, sex, love, money and everything else?**

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