Grade 11: How Young Is Too Young for Social Media?

Video Discussion

What You'll Need:
• Video
• Student Handout
• Student Handout (Spanish)

Activity Steps

1. **Introduce** the video topic to students by saying: *Today we're going to watch a video that explores what age people should be allowed to use social media.*

2. **Show** the *Above the Noise* video *When Is The Right Age to Start Social Media?* by KQED Education (6:00 minutes). (Note: The video is also available in Spanish, and you can also use the video player to turn on subtitles.)

3. **Lead** a class discussion exploring the questions below.
   - **Optional:** You can also distribute the **Student Handout** and have students respond to the questions prior to group or whole-class discussion.

Discussion Questions

1. **At what age do you think you were mature enough to handle all the pros and cons of social media?**
   - Sample responses:
     - Answers will vary.

2. **What are the arguments for and against having an age requirement?**
   - Sample responses:
     - Arguments for an age requirement: There are privacy issues because companies collect a lot of data from users; children are considered a vulnerable group because they might not understand the consequences of what they do online; children may interact with people they don't know; and children are more likely to be impacted negatively by the pressures of social media.
     - Arguments against an age requirement: Social media can be good for self-esteem and confidence; it's a place to find community and support; it can help people organize around causes, both personal and social or political.

3. **Which side do you agree with? Why?**
   - Answers will vary.