



representation in media



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Let's Get Real About Representation By Clarkisha Kent

After reviewing the corresponding list of terms, use this guide to have a discussion about representation in media.

1. Does the piece of media you are consuming include stereotypes? Counter-types? Archetypes? What are they? And what is their impact (good or bad)? Discuss.
2. Think of an example of a stereotype in media that has been **harmful**. Think about a stereotype in media that has been **harmless**. What is the difference between the two?
3. Think of your favorite show or piece of media. Think of all the things you like about it. Now think of any stereotype that is employed for dramatic or comedic effect. Is this problematic? Why or why not?
4. Regarding your chosen piece of media, does it include an actor, filmmaker, etc that does not have lived experience of the person and/or group that they are trying to portray or present? How does this impact this representation or art?
5. How do you as an individual distinguish between visual, written, musical, etc representations that are offensive and those that are humorous, dramatic, or effective? How do you think this might be different for a group?
6. Think of a piece of media that has offended you or that you have found harmful. Would the intentions of the artist/filmmaker matter to you? Or rather the impact? Discuss.
7. In what ways does the scarcity of representation affect perceptions of marginalized groups?
8. How does the history of racial and ethnic discrimination factor into this debate? What about gender? Sexuality? Disability? Etc?
9. What do you think producers, casting directors, studios, actors, and other high-level entertainment power players can do to ensure better presentation across the board? Discuss.