

## Frontline

Choose **TWO** of these prompts to respond to.

1. In the opening of the program, we see boys gathering to collaboratively play a military-style videogame. What characteristics of a computer make it different from other media in the home, such as television, videogames, stereo/radio, magazines and books? How do these characteristics influence:
  - How the computer is used in the home?
  - Who uses the computer?
  - Where the computer is placed?
  - How much the computer is used?
2. In the introduction to the program, the narrator says: "This is Morris County, N.J., but it could be anywhere in America. Here, like in the rest of the country, some 90 percent of teenagers are online, a number that's still growing." From what you saw in the film, is Morris County indicative of a typical American community? Why or why not? Is it like your community?
3. One teacher in the program says, "We almost have to be entertainers." If we think of an entertainer as an actor, musician, dancer or someone who performs, in what ways is your favorite teacher like an entertainer? In what ways is he or she unlike -- or different from -- an entertainer? What are the positive and negative consequences of expecting teachers to be entertaining?
4. More teachers are using tools to try to detect cheating or deter students' inclination to cheat. In the program, we see the use of plagiarism-detection tools like Turnitin.com and writing assignments completed during class time to make sure students do their own work and generate their own ideas. In terms of student writing, what are some different types of "cheating"? What are the elements you would include in your definition of "cheating"?
5. One student claims he "never reads books" but relies on summaries and annotated notes he finds on Web sites. He confesses that he feels guilty about this, stating, "I feel like I kind of cheated it." Should he feel guilty? Why or why not?
6. As shown in the program, social networking sites can be used as a way to "talk junk," insult others or hash out conflicts. Is fighting online a relatively safe way to express negative emotions in responding to others (without having to deal with them face to face)? Or does online fighting do more harm than good?

7. Girls describe how online name calling among different groups escalated to physical violence between girls in a school cafeteria. The event was videotaped by students and posted to YouTube. From the list below, choose three of the following groups. Explain the similarities and differences in how the fight video would function for each group -- and how these groups might perceive the video.

- The girls who were fighting in the video
- The person who filmed it and uploaded it
- Other students in the school
- Teachers and administrators at the school
- Parents of the girls who were fighting
- Parents of students who were in the cafeteria at the time
- Law enforcement in the community
- Teens who viewed the video online -- but are from a different school or area

8. Some teens, like Autumn Edows, feel like they can be someone else online. Sara, however, mentioned that while she has to play a role in real life, she can be more authentic online. What do you feel when you're online? Can you be more real and authentic, who you really are, or do you enjoy feeling like you're someone else, or playing around with your identity?

9. In the program, teens are shown talking about the photos of themselves that they post online. Some people may post images of themselves looking like musicians, models or celebrities. Profiles may perpetuate stereotypes of others because we only get a glimpse of them through their photographs, their interests in music and movies, and pictures and comments from their friends. Do you think it is easier to stereotype people online than in real life? Why or why not? What information does a photograph tell about a person? What information does a person's music selections provide? How do popular culture and the mass media affect people's selection of different types of images and music for their profiles?