

Open Your Class With This Tomorrow: *Accountable - The True Story of a Racist Social Media Account and the Teenagers Whose Lives It Changed.*

Accountable Discussion Guide

Accountable raises many relevant questions about the power of social media and the damage it can cause. It is also important to examine how much the students of the account should be held accountable for their actions, posts, or comments. For example, should a student be kicked out of school for liking a post that is offensive, or should they lose their friends? Is this the price to pay? By high school, should individuals know better? There are no easy answers, but as teens spend more and more time on social media, these are important questions to consider both for those who have been hurt and those who have hurt others.

Adapted from:

https://www.accountablebook.com/files/ugd/c36609_908bf3563a5a4fd2a47c648474b1f929.pdf

Question for Consideration

1. How can the desire for likes on social media sometimes supersede the desire to be kind to those we know either as friends or acquaintances?
2. This event occurred in 2017 when acts such as the march in Charlottesville were making headlines in the news. How can the background of a news cycle exacerbate these types of events?
3. How can psychological concepts such as the bystander effect, the just-world phenomenon, and diffusion of responsibility help explain why people did not intervene when the account became increasingly vicious and why they did not take responsibility after it was discovered?
4. How can we hold people accountable for their wrongdoing while still acknowledging their humanity and believing in their ability to repent or transform?
5. What role do you believe the school has in instances like these?
6. Can schools do more to prevent these types of events? Parents?
7. Do you believe that the individual who created the account is more responsible than those who followed, commented, or occasionally liked a post? How do you make this distinction?
8. Do you believe that minors who engage in this type of online behavior should be treated differently than adults? Explain.
9. How can schools respond, and what should they do if a case like this arises?
10. Do you think knowing how this unfolded in California will influence your online behavior? Explain.
11. To what degree do you believe the creators of this site should be held Accountable?