

# Ten Tips to Become a MEDIA-SAVVY Catechist

Follow these tips and you'll be able to use media not only to attract the attention of young people but to teach them how to find God and discern the values that are present in the media they use.



1. Allow yourself to become a co-learner when utilizing media in your catechetical sessions. Remember that young people generally know more about contemporary media than you do.
2. Practice active listening when conversing with youth about their preferred media. Find out why they like certain songs, TV shows, magazines, and so on, rather than being quick to condemn their choices. This positive behavior on your part will encourage healthy catechist-learner relationships.
3. Spend some time in the magazine aisle of your local drug or bookstore. Notice what magazines youth are looking at and interested in.
4. Make it a point to look at the various media charts in *Entertainment Weekly* or *Billboard* magazines or visit their Web sites. This can

provide you with a wealth of information, including titles of popular music that you might use or discuss in your catechetical sessions.

5. Look over the various reviews in the newspaper for new movies that are soon to be released. Note the ratings as well as the names of the lead actors. Knowing this information can trigger a conversation about movies, various celebrities, and why celebrities and sports figures receive the attention of young people.
6. Listen to various kinds of radio stations and TV stations to determine what kinds of music the young people

listen to. Inquire from your learners what their favorite kind of music is and why. If need be, search out song lyrics on the Internet to determine the values that are expressed in them.

7. Visit the Web sites that students say they like to visit. Notice what kinds of features the sites offer.
8. Make sure to watch at least one of the TV shows that the young people favor. Note the plot lines as well as the types of characters that are portrayed. Introduce their names in class when using examples of various kinds of values or behaviors.
9. Find out how many young people in your class visit Internet chat rooms on a regular basis. Inquire as to whether they are aware that sometimes visitors in these chat rooms are not always what they seem.
10. Create a classroom questionnaire about media. Include a question to determine how many young people have family rules concerning the use of various kinds of media.