

# 4th Grade ELA Study Guide

**Video Title:** *The AQBS Rule – Ask Questions. Be Skeptical*

**From:** *Media Masters Rock!*

**Focus:** Evaluating digital messages, managing emotional reactions, asking critical questions, and forming thoughtful responses

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Determine the main idea and key messages from a video text.
- Ask and answer higher-level questions about digital communication.
- Understand how emotions affect our behavior and judgment.
- Distinguish between emotional reactions and evidence-based responses.
- Use writing and speaking to express understanding and personal application of the AQBS Rule.

Aligned with: *Alabama Course of Study – 4th Grade ELA*

- **ELA.4.9:** Integrate information from two texts on the same topic to write or speak knowledgeably.
- **ELA.4.11:** Determine the main idea and explain how it is supported by key details.
- **ELA.4.14:** Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support points.
- **ELA.4.26:** Write opinion pieces with reasons supported by facts and details.
- **ELA.4.30:** Engage in collaborative discussions and build on others' ideas.

## WATCH + LISTEN

Say before the video:

“Today we’ll learn a rule that helps us slow down and think carefully when something online makes us feel a strong emotion. Pay close attention to the questions a Media Master asks.”

## AFTER-VIEWING DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Facilitate a discussion or small-group reflection using these deeper questions:

1. **What is the AQBS Rule, and how can it help you online or offline?**  
*(Ask Questions. Be Skeptical. It helps us pause and think before reacting to strong emotions.)*
2. **Why is it risky to respond to something online while you're feeling a strong emotion?**  
*(We might act without thinking clearly and regret what we post or say.)*
3. **What types of questions should we ask about our own emotions?**  
*(Why am I feeling this? Do I need to act on this? Could this hurt me or others?)*
4. **What types of questions should we ask about the post itself?**  
*(Is this post true or false? What's the evidence? What is the person's goal in posting this?)*
5. **What's the difference between reacting emotionally and responding thoughtfully?**  
*(Emotional reactions are fast and impulsive. Thoughtful responses are based on facts and thinking.)*
6. **Why is it sometimes smarter to not respond to a post at all?**  
*(Some things don't need a reply. Choosing silence can prevent harm or drama.)*

## ELA ACTIVITY OPTIONS

### 1. Opinion Writing Prompt: "Why the AQBS Rule Matters"

Prompt:

"Should people always follow the AQBS Rule when using social media or texting? Why or why not?"

Students write a paragraph using the following structure:

- State your opinion clearly.
- Give at least two reasons.
- Support each reason with examples or evidence.

- Conclude with a thoughtful statement.

Encourage peer sharing and discussion.

## **2. Message Breakdown – Emotional vs. Logical**

Provide examples of social media-style messages or headlines.

Example:

- “This is SHOCKING! You won’t believe what happened at school!”
- “Scientists say recycling plastic works—see the data here.”

Students identify:

- **Emotion Trigger** (What feeling does it cause?)
- **Questions to Ask** (Is it true? Who posted it? Why?)
- **Reaction or Response?** (Would a Media Master react or pause?)

## **3. Design Your Own “Pause + Question” Infographic**

Students create a small poster or infographic that teaches others how to follow the AQBBS Rule. Include:

- A strong emotion example
- 2 questions a Media Master might ask
- A helpful reminder like “You don’t have to respond right away!”  
Post around the classroom or hallway as reminders.

## **KEY VOCABULARY**

Introduce and define these terms from the script:

- **Emotion** – a strong feeling such as fear, joy, sadness, or anger
- **React** – to act quickly based on emotion
- **Respond** – to reply or act after thinking it through
- **Skeptical** – to question something instead of believing it right away

- **Evidence** – proof or facts to support whether something is true or false
- **Valid** – real, true, or worth noticing (like emotions)

## **CLASSROOM MANTRA**

**“If it makes you feel strong... Don’t get it wrong. Ask Questions. Be Skeptical!”**

Practice this as a class chant. Try setting it to a rhythm or clap pattern for memory support.

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