

These best practices for media use, paired with questions, provide a “jump start” for conversations about role models, confidence, self-awareness, STEM exploration, and more.

Before you press play, explore these ideas for sharing media with learners:

- **Watch the videos(s) ahead of time** to assess age-appropriateness. Think about the key points you’d like your learners to take away (e.g. themes, key learning concepts, or *SciGirls Strategies* to reinforce) and remain open to hearing what parts of the video they find energizing!
- **Define it:** Prior to pressing play, tell your learners what the video *is* e.g., “We are going to watch the story of Antoinette, a software engineer who builds web apps and communities that enable people to create their own technologies.”
- **Activate prior knowledge:** Help your learners explore what they already know about the video’s content. For example, you may ask “So what is a software engineer? How can this work be shared with the community? Can anyone share what they know about apps or computer science?” You can tailor your questions and prompts to suit your learners, and help them make connections between the media and the insight they’ve gained from previous activities and experiences.
- **Make it meaningful:** Most of your youth are constantly consuming media. So why is this particular video important, unique or special? Share **why** you are showing the video, e.g., “we’ll watch Aubrey, who works to make sure that everyone can see themselves represented in digital games; think about what this work means to her, and what a similar experience might mean to you.” Ask your learners to think about questions and ideas for a post-viewing discussion.
- **Get specific:** Ask learners to watch for/think about particular ideas or themes, e.g., “Make sure you look for all of the things that helped this role model to be successful” or “think about when you’ve had to do something over and over to get the results you wanted.”



Press play, take time, ask questions and engage:

- **Press pause:** You might want to stop the video at a suspenseful point and challenge viewers to make predictions or form hypotheses about what happens next. This builds investment; viewers will want to see if they’re right, and how the story ultimately turns out.
- **“Watch-Think-Share:”** After viewing the video, use this method to spark lively discussion. Begin by fostering first reactions with general, open-ended questions. What did you like? What didn’t you like? What was the best part? Why do you feel that way? Then break into small groups to explore specific questions, with members jotting notes on the discussion. These notes help each group “share out” their impressions and ideas with the full cohort.
- **“Write On!”:** Another way to encourage active viewing and prompt discussion is to have learners write down one question they have both during and after watching the video. Then they can share their questions individually or in groups, generating answers and insight from their peers.

Credits: Excerpted from KQED’s tips for using videos: <https://ww2.kqed.org/education/2016/08/23/watch-think-write-and-other-proven-strategies-for-using-video-in-the-classroom/> and Common Sense Media’s watching videos article: <https://www.weareteachers.com/8-ways-help-students-watch-video-critically-instead-zoning/>.