Fertile Question: Where do I draw the line?

Core Content Area 3: See, judge, act

TOPIC 3.1: Community response

Extending Knowledge: Critical judgement: the Kony affair

In this lesson students will investigate what it means to apply critical judgement to issues of ethics and morality.

Teachers: Before You Start!

1. Familiarise yourself with the resources in this unit.

For students to investigate what it means to apply critical judgement to issues of ethics and morality, select from the following activities:

1. Sometimes one can get caught up in the emotion of an ethical issue of injustice and lose sight of one’s own good judgement unless very good skills of critical literacy have been cultivated. One such case was the extensive energy put into the Kony campaign in 2012 when a video uploaded to YouTube highlighting atrocities with children in Uganda, went viral with millions of hits and shares throughout the world. It was later shown to be based on old information at least six years out of date.

   a. Critically evaluate the Kony campaign.

      i. Read the short article that outlines the key points for and against the 2012 Kony campaign.

      ii. Why did so many people react so strongly to this campaign? Critically analyse the video. How do you feel after watching the video? What are the ethical and moral concerns raised in the video? What techniques has the producer of the film used to incite a reaction from its audience? Analyse the use of emotive language and images. What is this video trying to make you believe? What is the intention of the producer? What do you think are the values and beliefs of the producer? How have other resources been manipulated to reinforce points being made?

      iii. “Nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come”. How might this statement be connected with the phenomenal uptake of intent of the campaign?

      iv. The processes of discernment and critical judgement are essential religious literacy and social skills. What is the importance of applying these thinking processes and being attentive to your feelings of intuition when challenged by media hype or the danger of being “caught in the crowd”?

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