
EPISODE 9:
**TikTok: Its Popularity
and Concerns**

CHAPTER 1:
**Should eSports
Go Olympic?**

Originally Aired:
3/22/2020



TERM TO KNOW—eSports

Competitive and organized electronic video games played online.

Competitors play popular video game tournaments in front of spectators and online, or TV viewers can also watch through streaming services.



FOR DISCUSSION

From this segment, we learned that eSports has become a billion dollar industry. People follow it or play it to relieve stress, and key players earn large endorsements. Viewing and playing have increased worldwide, as more people have access to mobile devices. Students can discuss or reflect in writing the following prompt:

- Do you think eSports could be an Olympic sport? Why or why not?



INVESTIGATIVE QUESTION

Students can track the viewership of eSports and evaluate if and to what extent the pandemic has impacted its growth.

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CHAPTER 2:
**Oceans: Our Defense
Against Climate Change**

Originally Aired:
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TERM TO KNOW—*Photosynthesis*

The process where plants absorb the energy from sunlight, store CO₂, and release O₂ into the environment.



FOR DISCUSSION

As a result of climate change, oceans' temperatures are rising at an alarming rate. Offer the following prompt for students to discuss or reflect upon in writing:

What role do oceans play in reducing carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere?



ACTION ITEM

Grab a family member or friend and through vivid illustrations and/or clear explanations, teach them how "...whales eat carbon, not fish."

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CHAPTER 3:
**Russia Takes Away
Youth Right to Protest**

Originally Aired:
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TERM TO KNOW—*Civil Liberty*

Free from government interference.

Articulated by Enlightenment philosophers and enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, particularly the First Amendment, civil liberties are protected in the United States. “Congress shall make no law” means that the government cannot interfere with inherent liberties, such as freedom of or from religion, free expression in the forms of speech, gathering together with like-minded people, the press, or protest.



FOR DISCUSSION

In this segment, Nikita from Moscow invites the viewer into his view of life in Russia. He is a critic of the Russian leader, Vladimir Putin who recently passed a law outlawing minors from protesting. Nikita states, “Your power is your freedom.” Invite students to discuss or write about what this means to them. Encourage them to compare and/or contrast their experiences with Nikita’s, and how they might feel if parents could be fined if their child participated in a protest.



INVESTIGATIVE QUESTION

Freedom House is an organization that rates countries by the decline or growth of democracy. Keeping in mind the range of views offered in this segment by Nikita and the BBC, go to Freedom House’s [map](#) and explore Russia’s rating. Be sure to check its rating for civil liberties, and how the country is trending from past years. How does Freedom House’s evaluation of Russia compare to Nikita’s perspective? Feel free to explore the website.

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CHAPTER 4:
**Social Media and
Free Speech**

Originally Aired:
3/22/2020



TERM TO KNOW—*Surveillance*

To watch over or monitor people or groups of people.

TikTok is owned by a Chinese company. There has been concern about data from users being shared without their consent. China has an extensive surveillance network of its citizens – which has raised the concern of whether users outside of China can be confident that their information is secure if they use the Chinese-owned app.



FOR DISCUSSION

The BBC's Nomia Iqbal shares the widespread popularity of the TikTok app. Together with BBC tech reporter Chris Fox, she cites concern about the difference between TikTok, a Chinese owned app, and Facebook or Instagram which are American companies. Invite students to discuss or reflect in writing how this ownership may impact:

- If users' information is shared and monitored, and
- Free speech



ACTION ITEM

The segment ends with references to overuse of social media and tips for healthy habits. Encourage friends and family to commit to striking a healthy balance between themselves and their online apps/social media use, with tips such as:

- Establish a reasonable amount of time of use
 - Consider device-free times of the day or week
 - Turn off notifications
 - Adjust settings to promote privacy
 - Remove apps they don't use or don't want to use
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