THE
ALGORITHM LITERACY PROJECT

Video Discussion Guide
Getting Started with Algorithms

What even is an algorithm?
A video discussion guide

The Algorithm Literacy Project is an effort by Kids Code Jeunesse and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO) to educate Canadians about how algorithms work, how they can influence our decisions, and what we can do to take control of our own online experiences.

Though we all use algorithms every day, many of us don't know what they are or how they work. In the video, **What even is an algorithm?**, viewers are taken behind the screen to find out what happens in the hidden world of algorithms.

To spark important conversations, we encourage you to discuss the following questions before and after watching the video.

Founding Partners

Kids Code Jeunesse (KCJ) is a bilingual Canadian charity determined to give every Canadian child access to digital skills education, with a focus on girls and underserved communities. KCJ teaches kids and their educators about artificial intelligence, code, digital citizenship and how these integrate with the Global Goals so that our kids have the confidence and creative tools they need to build a better future.

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO) helps Canadians share knowledge locally and globally in order to create better societies and build peace in the minds of men and women. Media and Information Literacy is a priority for the CCUNESCO due in large part to its close connection to freedom of expression, freedom of information, and fighting disinformation. CCUNESCO is proud to partner with KCJ to continue Canada's leading role in promoting Media and Information Literacy and Algorithm Literacy across Canada.

Discussion Questions

Before the video

1. What do you think goes on behind your screens?
2. If you have heard the word algorithm before, can you explain what you think it means?
3. Can you name an example of a website or app that you think uses algorithms? How do you think they work in this example?
4. Why do you think you see some results or videos when you search for a word, but your friends see something different?

After the video

1. After viewing the video, how would you now define the term algorithm?
2. Have you ever asked similar questions to the character in the video?
3. Reflect on how you interact with technology throughout the day. What kind of algorithms do you come across?
4. Algorithms are based on the personal data they can gather on you. What kind of personal data do you share with the world while using technology?
5. How many times a day do you think you encounter an algorithm?
6. How often does the internet show you information that you don't like, or that upsets you?
7. Do you think that an algorithm can be good or bad? If so, how can you tell the difference?
8. Can you think of an example of when an algorithm has influenced what you've seen online?
9. Can you think of any ways you can change what results an algorithm shows you?
10. If you could build a new algorithm, what would it do?

Do you have questions to add to the conversation? Make sure to share them online via Twitter using #GetAlgoLit

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