# Encouraging a questioning attitude

## When you’re talking about media with your child, you can encourage him to ask questions too. This can help your child sort facts from opinion, identify advertising, understand bias and be aware of the misuse of statistics.

## For example, you could choose one of the YouTube channels or Instagram accounts your child follows. Ask your child:

## Who’s behind it?

## What’s their motivation?

## What do they want from you?

## How does it make you feel?

## Do they want you to feel that way? Why?

## You can do the same for celebrities. Encourage your child to ask herself:

## Why do I like these people?

## Are they presented in a realistic way?

## Are they like this in real life?

## What values does this person portray?

## How does this person make me feel about myself?

## During an election campaign, share some political memes with your child. Encourage your child to ask:

## What ideas are being promoted in this meme?

## Who made this meme and why?

## How might this meme influence voters during the election?

## Understanding advertising:

## You can help to limit the influence of advertising on your child by talking about how [advertising](https://raisingchildren.net.au/teens/entertainment-technology/media/advertising-children) sells ideas as well as products. For example, you could encourage your child to ask:

## Does this advertisement link the product with a particular kind of lifestyle?

## How does that make you feel about the product?

## What messages does this advertisement send about what girls, boys, women and men should look like, wear, do, eat and drink?

## Source

Australian parenting website. Media influence on teenagers: social media, movies, YouTube and apps. Link: <https://raisingchildren.net.au/teens/entertainment-technology/media/media-influence-on-teens>