

Unpacking Messages in Porn

Porn is printed or visual material that is sexually explicit and intended to turn us on, or excite us sexually. We typically think of it as videos, movies, or magazines, but porn can be found in books, pictures, and even art!

Porn is not necessarily good or bad. However, many people learn messages about gender roles, relationships, and sex from porn.

Sometimes these messages create unrealistic or inaccurate expectations. This means we might cause harm if we rely on porn for our sex education.

Porn Literacy

Porn literacy is a tool we can use to be critical consumers of porn. It is important to understand that what we see in porn is not real life. However, it can affect the way we act in life.



When watching porn we can ask these questions* to help us think critically about what we see:

*Adapted from [Health Connected](#)
'Porn Literacy' handout

<u>Content</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What techniques are used to keep the viewer's attention?• What values and points of view are represented? What is left out?• Who is represented? Who is left out?
<u>Production</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who created/produced this?• Who funded this?• Was this created and shared with consent?
<u>Purpose</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why was this media created?• What do the creators want the viewer to think or feel about this media?

Remember: Pornography is not about realistic depictions of sex, love, and intimacy – it is fantasy! It is a media industry all about money, which means we should always be critical of what messages it teaches us.

24hr Toll Free Crisis Line | 1-888-385-4657 Web | www.ccssd.org IG | @ccs_prevents