**It’s Complicated Discussion Questions**

**Intro & Ch. 1**
In the preface, Boyd said that this book is written for “the people who worry about [teens]—parents, teachers, policy makers, journalists, sometimes even other teens.” Does this book seem written/addressed to you?

Boyd uses the example of a teen who used Twitter to discuss her obsession for One Direction, and Facebook and texting to talk with her school friends. Do you have separate digital persona in this way? What communication methods and social media sites do you use for these different persona? What happens when these contexts bleed into each other?

**Ch. 2 & 3**
Do you agree or disagree with boyd’s thesis about addiction? Do you think most teenagers are addicted to technology? Do you side more with technological determinists who say that technology is rewiring our brains and not in good ways, or do you side more with those who say technology sharpens our brains? How do we know/judge what technology is “doing” to our society?

**Ch. 4-6**
People are more afraid of sexual predators on the internet than the ones met through personal connection, even though there are very few encounters on the internet compared to those made through personal connection. Why do you think people believe the media over reality? Do you think there’s anything we can do about this?

Boyd says that “The internet may not have the power to reverse long-standing societal ills, but it does have the potential to make them visible in new and perhaps productive ways.” Have you had any experience with social media making these things visible? What role has social media played?

**Ch. 7 & 8**
Do you agree that the term “digital native” promotes inequality and the digital divide? Do you feel that teens naturally possess a knowledge of technology or that they’ve had to learn to use it?

How do you define media literacy? Do you feel most teens are media literate? What practices do you see that characterize those who are media illiterate?

Do you agree with Boyd that we now prohibit teenagers from public life in the same way we used to keep women out of public life? Did you have a public life as a teenager? Do you see a difference between having a public life and being in public?
Questions adapted from Dr. Hannah Bellwoar https://bellwoarwamf14.wordpress.com/page/5/