

RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility is increasingly being discussed in connection with the Internet. In his book *The Imperative of Responsibility* subtitled *In search of an Ethics for Technological Age* in 1979, the philosopher Hans Jonas is concerned with the re-foundation of ethics for our age. With all the power that technology gave back then, according to Jonas it was no longer enough to consider only his living fellow men in many considerations. According to Jonas, one must also think of the future: of those fellow human beings who still will be alive. Responsible action therefore means taking into account the fundamental interests and rights of future generations.

In a democratic society, it is essential to promote the ability to reflect and to enlighten in order to enable each individual to orientate themselves in life through self-thinking rather than authoritarian guidelines.

Discussion plan: Responsibility:

- What does responsibility mean?
- Are you responsible for your actions?
- Can responsibility arise voluntarily?
- Is everyone responsible for the outcome of his/her actions?
- What is the difference between responsibility and the feeling to be responsible?
- Is everyone responsible for the consequences of his/her actions?
- What is responsibility based on?
- Can responsibility be limited?
- Is it possible that a person does not have to take responsibility for his actions?
- Does a person also bear responsibility when he does not act?
- What is responsibility based on?

Activity: What does responsible action on the Internet look like?

Who can take responsibility for actions on the Internet and in what way? And what does responsible action on the Internet actually look like?

Interview three different people!

Exercise: When and for what does a person bear responsibility? Reasons!

- For the rain
- For the mess in the room
- For chain letters
- For a pet
- For the earthquake
- For an omitted action
- For a product
- What is happening on the Internet
- The conscious purchase
- State laws

Literature

Jonas, Hans: The Imperative of Responsibility. In Search of an Ethics for Technological Age. The University of Chicago Press. 1984.

Materials

Schefter, Thomas (Ed.): aphorismen.de.
https://www.aphorismen.de/suche?f_thema=Verantwortung&f_rubrik=Gedichte
Accessed on 2018.5.21.