

Name:

Date:

Period:

A Declaration of War: Media & Religion

From: Michael Medved, *Hollywood Vs. America*, HarperCollins, 1992. pp.37-49

BEFORE READING THE MEDVED HANDOUT:

1. How are teenagers typically portrayed in the Media (TV shows, news reports, movies)? Why do you think the Media portrays teenagers the way it does? Is the typical portrayal a fair and accurate one? Why or why not? Does the Media stereotypes teenagers? If so, how?
2. Does the way teenagers are portrayed in the Media influence the attitude that adults have towards teenagers? Why or why not? Do you think that the Media portrayal of teenagers influences the way you are treated by adults (like your parents)? If so, how? If not, why?
3. Do you think it is fair for adults to base their attitudes and assumptions about teenagers on what they see on television (news, shows) and in the movies? Why or why not?
4. Does the Media stereotype minorities (for example, African- or Hispanic- Americans)? How? If you consider yourself to be a member of one of these minorities, how do you think the Media's portrayal of your race or ethnic group influences the way others treat you? Is there a media stereotype of the "majority"? If you consider yourself part of the "majority," how might the Media's portrayal of other races and ethnic groups influence you behavior towards members of those groups? Do you think the media portrayal of the majority influences the way others treat you? How?

9. Think for a moment about some TV shows you watch regularly or movies you have seen recently. How is organized religion portrayed? Are any of the characters religious? How are they portrayed? Why do you think this is the case (in other words, what might the TV show/film be trying to say about religion through its portrayal of the religious character)? Be sure to tell me what TV show or film you are talking about.

10. How do you think the Media portrayal of organized religions might influence the way those religions are viewed and understood by people who are not members of them?

11. How might the Media portrayal of organized religions influence the attitude and behavior of the members of those religions?

12. Ask your parents/guardians if they remember the controversy surrounding the release of the film *The Last Temptation of Christ*. What do they recall about the film and about those who protested it? Did they see the film? Why or why not? What do/did they think about those who protested the film's release?