

Prereading Questions for Selections in Chapter 3

“American Jerk: Be Civil, or I’ll Beat You to a Pulp,” Todd Schwartz

- What does the subtitle suggest about what Schwartz’s tone will be?
- Is it possible for a culture to be both more polite than ever before and ruder than ever before at the same time?

“Superhero or Supervillain?” Will Oremus

- What superpowers will be discussed? Can technology really give us these superpowers?
- How will people respond to having these superpowers?
- Will their responses vary depending on the superpower?