

Writing a Persuasive Essay

by Arlyne T. of Carr Intermediate School in Santa Ana, California

Viewing Violence

INTRODUCTION

Attention-grabbing beginning

On television today, there is an exceptional amount of violence. It seems as if no matter what show you watch there is always some sort of violence going on. Whether it is actual people engaging in violence or cartoon characters, it is all the same. Entertainment is the main purpose of violence on television shows. Executive producers seem to feel that an action sequence is the only way to keep the television viewer from changing the channel. Plus, in today's society, television is used as an inexpensive baby sitter that keeps children entertained from as early as the crack of dawn until bedtime. The problem is that many parents do not realize the type of content that the show has or the negative effect it might have on their children. The violence on television needs to be limited, especially in children's programming.

Thesis statement

Reason #1:
Children imitate what they see

There are many shows on television that have violence

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Example

in them, such as science fiction shows, morning talk shows, police shows, and some cartoon programming. I am convinced that every kid in America has imitated a show that had violence in it at some point. I know I have. Every day I see kids imitating violent programs on my way home. There are always little kids running after each other playing cops and robbers, while singing the theme song from the latest police or cartoon show. You can't pass by one elementary school playground without seeing kids hitting each other because they are pretending to be characters from their favorite television shows.

Reason #2: TV glorifies violence

Kids look to television for entertainment, and once they start watching a program there is usually violence in it.

Anecdote

Television glorifies violence for today's children. I know when I watch television, I sometimes think, "Wow, that's cool," and I am already fourteen years old; I should know better. What I mean is, if violence is affecting me, a teenager, imagine how it is affecting someone who is only eight.

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Reason #3:
Children use
violent solutions

Expert opinion

Example

Kids learn things from television. One thing they learn is to solve problems with violence. According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, children can be influenced by violence on television. Many studies show that children see violence as a way to work out their problems.

Josh, a sixteen-year-old friend of mine, says, “Yeah, I think that kids see that on cartoons the characters usually solve their problems by kicking each other or by resorting to some other form of violence. I guess they think that if TV characters can work out their problems by using violence, then they can, too.”

CONCLUSION

Counterargument
addressed

Call to action

Cartoon shows are not the only problem. There are many other shows that use violence as their central theme. I am not saying to pull the shows that have violence off the air, because

I know people will be protesting to get them back on. What I am suggesting is that the writers and producers of these children’s shows tone the violence down a little. All that fighting is unnecessary; children are already getting a negative

Restatement of
opinion

feeling from the disasters going on in the world. There is no need for so much violence on television. There is already

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enough going on in real life.