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Decline of Morality in the United States Media

Over time the United States has transformed from a conservative country with a filtered media, to one that seems to lack a filter on what media and other influences can put out to the general population. The media has evolved into a source of profanity and sexual immortality. The propaganda that our media spews out affects all age groups in various ways. Teens are being told that free sex and sexual experiences are acceptable to participate in and that the consequences associated aren’t nearly as bad as they seem. The actions of teens clearly reflect the negative influences that media have on them. America’s media needs to be put in check and be filtered of unmoral materials. To do this, new laws must be enacted and enforced.

The media that is broadcasted thought the United States has a major influence over the lives of American citizens. Among these are teenagers who are the most susceptible to the influences that are applied by media. Some examples of these influences are the promotion of free sex, use of drugs and alcohol, and self-destructive behaviors. I have witnessed the affects of these influences on young people in my own community. In my hometown of Currituck, North Carolina, the teen pregnancy rate is at an all time high. What is even more baffling is that Currituck also has the highest rate of teen pregnancy in North-Eastern North Carolina. Shows such as Teen Mom, Buckwild, and Real Life, portray actions that lack self-control, good judgment and morality. Each show involves sex, drug/alcohol, and reckless behavior that cause the cast to be in bad situations. Recently on April 1, 2013, Shane Gandee was found in a ditch, dead from a ‘muddin’ accident. Off road driving otherwise known as “muddin” is also very popular where I live, and has lead to the injury of several my classmates. By seeing what others do on television, teens think “I want to be like them,” so they go out and do the same idiotic things that people do on MTV.

People also follow suit with what musicians say and do. Many teen and even adults go out and party until they can barely function enough to get back home all the time. This type of behavior is portrayed in many types of music. Rap in particular promotes this behavior with the lyrics that rappers produce and put in their songs. Many of their lyrics depict them using drugs, partying, and having sex with whatever ~~attractive~~ women will take them. This in itself is sending out a destructive message to young people. I see kids my own age mirroring practically everything that I see and hear coming through the media.

The only way to help prevent the negative influence that the media has is to enact stricter laws regarding what can be put out in the media. This new law should restrict profanity, sexual topics and conduct, drug related topics and other negative influences. Though freedom of speech may be a topic that is brought up to combat the new law, changes must be made when a family cannot sit and watch the news together when a president talks of oral sex on TV. By putting tighter restrictions on what is allowed to be aired, the media will have a looser psychological grip on teens and others who are swayed by what the media spews. The right to freedom of the press will still be intact even if this law is put into effect. Artists would still be able to release their unfiltered versions through CDs, iTunes and other internet music sources. With this law everyone would still be able make the money they “need” and would allow for their feelings to be heard through their art.

By putting this new law into place, teens and others will not be as influenced by the negativity that the media presents. The positive effects that would come out of having restrictions put into place would outweigh any negatives that would arise from those who oppose the law. Though this law would take an “act of congress” to be put into place, it would benefit people for generations to come.