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Violence in the movies

Have you ever heard on the news about a teenager being accused of a violent crime? Over the past few years there seems to have been an increase in these reports. In the American Journal of Public Health, it says “nearly 1 in 4 (23%) US high school students are involved in a serious violent altercation each year, and roughly 1 in 6 (16%) report carrying a weapon at least once per month.” Those statements are surprising and raise the questions, what is the cause? What is it that motivates them to participate in these activities? Where do the ideas come from?

After searching around through a few different sources, I have noticed one possible cause for the behavior of teenagers is media. Many sources that I looked through mentioned the affect that today’s media has on the violent behaviors teenagers. I plan on focusing on movies and what role they play in these violent behaviors. There are other forms of media that could contribute like social media. There is music and how it often contains violent suggestions. Or tv, and it is easy to see how that continues to contain violence, sex, drugs, and vulgar language. But I plan on keeping my research to movies. With my major being animation, movies will be a huge part of my future career. So, I want to know what effect do movies have on the violent behaviors of teenagers? My research will be focused on this question.

There are aspects that will go into finding an answer to this question. One of the main aspects would be behavior. I will consider different aspects of behavior, specifically in teenagers. This would include research on developmental behaviors, because it is during these parts of human development that we change the most. For this I will read phycological research from doctors and medical professionals that focus on how we develop during the ages of 12-19. I will specifically look for how outside sources, like media, can affect our actions. Other aspects of behavior that would be important to know is what things make the biggest impact in one’s behavior. This will be vital because as I learn what can affect mood, action, and personality it will help me understand what role movies would have in that. This information could be obtained from different studies that have been conducted on behavioral influences. There may be other aspects of behavior that I haven’t mentioned that would aid in answering this question and as I conduct my research I will bring those into account.

One other major topic in this question is movies themselves. I will need to do research on what type of content is in the movies that teenagers are watching. I will need to find out how often on average they spend watching movies. I will also need to consider the movie rating system to learn what is and isn’t allowed in movies. Movies have changed over time so seeing how they have changed over the years might help understand the increase in violent behavior compered to past decades. A lot of this information could be acquired from companies that do different movie ratings. I will need to gather this information from many different sources because these sources are often opinion based. I will also need to consider surveys that have been conducted on viewing times of children and teenagers. These are a few of the aspects that I will consider as research to help me find my answer.

There is a lot that goes into this question and more information that I will need. For me, as an animation student, I want to be informed so as I continue in this field I’ll know what I should and shouldn’t put in the movies I help make. But more importantly I know that the research I do will help parents of teenagers, and maybe teenagers themselves. This research will help parents understand what affects their children so that they, as parents, can better help them become they best they can be.

Schedule

Oct 1: by this date will have researched the more number based information like statistics

Oct 15: by this date I will have sources that focus on movies and their content

Oct 17: turn in annotated bibliography

Oct 29: by this date I will have sources that talk violence and teenagers

Nov 5: by this date I will have sources that talk about development and how outside sources can affect you

Nov 7: turn in rhetorical think piece

Nov 28: turn in argumentative research project before this day

Works cited

Salas-Wright, Christopher P., et al. "Trends in Fighting and Violence among Adolescents in the United States, 2002-2014." American Journal of Public Health, vol. 107, no. 6, June 2017, pp. 977-982. EBSCOhost, ezproxy.uvu.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=s3h&AN=123016481&site=eds-live.