All media are designed to transport a message, but those that do so poorly or ineffectively ought not to be used. Television is one of the worst offenders, and ought most to be blamed for the brainwashing it gives to its viewers. It is a factory of indolence, and unlike the theatre or cinema, television is not a medium of art and is unworthy of praise.

The television began as an extension of the newspaper and as a household alternative to the big-screen cinema. Its creators were many, each working for different motives and each contributing different aspects. When the television finally emerged, it seemed like a miraculous work of modern science.

But its progenitors quickly gave television up for adoption. Advertising slots sold like hotcakes and the new medium was already tainted with the greed of corporations. Soon the news was shortened, advertisements lengthened, and sports brought onto the scene. Joining advertisement and news was entertainment – in the form of sports and television shows.

The new medium was now clogged with garbage, but it went on. It continues to trap its viewers, to inject them with its venom of addiction and obsession, and slowly eradicate the carefully exercised brains of its viewers. In television, marketers control the content, allowing viewers little choice to just quite how they are brainwashed. Beginning with edifying material, television has slowly spiraled down along a path of growing de-educational content. The fast-paced, information and entertainment based medium injects its message into its viewers with no regard for means. Television is a medium of efficiency – the ends justify the means for broadcasters. Television purports to esteem the precious time of the viewer – its content is presented quickly. But the venom of addiction has incubated; the relaxing nature of this new medium is obsessive. No longer need the viewer think when receiving information, for television is mind-numbing in its presentation. Television is dulling to the brain, and viewers readily come back for more relaxing entertainment. What ought to be a quick check of the news becomes a five-hour perusal of NCIS reruns. Television has served to be one of the greatest wastes of time ever known to man.   
Each component of content television spews forth is detrimental to the viewer. The news has been compressed into minute segments, and the message consists now entirely of flashing warnings and alerts. Advertisements impress a worldview of consumerism and egotistical instinct-purchases. Finally, television shows are generally sappy, moralistic, and little use to the viewer.

Compared to books (good, solid reading), television fails miserably. Its rapid-fire pace leave little room for careful development of a story, and its presentation is primarily linear – with no depth and quick progression. It is a medium of visuals: a medium that, for good reason, has long been secondary in the genre of storytelling and literature. Even to the Internet television fails to compare. The Internet at least allows its users to browse between a variety of content; television allows only a narrow range of channels – most of which are no different from each other. The Internet gives access to well-presented and carefully constructed information; television blasts information like a pressure washer and in doing so cleans out the brain of anything else it may have held. The Internet is like a dictionary and encyclopedia; television is simply the set of illustrations.   
 Television is often praised by its extension of the cinema: it is not the “television set” I reject but “cable television.” The channels are not an extension of the theatre but an entire new type. Its content pales in comparison to the carefully developed screenplay, the precise production, and stunning effect of a feature film.

Television is a brainwasher, a time-waster, and an all-around laziness developer. Television should be at the least used sparingly, but ideally shunned. Its effect is disastrous; it ought to be avoided.