

Is There Too Much Violence on Television and in Movies?

Shootouts, stabbings, police chases, murder, gang violence, we see it over and over again on the television and in the movies. Many students, parents and schools are concerned about the amount of violence in movies and on television. There is also a growing problem with violence in and out of school. Some parents and teachers feel that watching so much violence on television and movies increases violence in students.

Pros

Violence can make movies and TV shows more exciting to watch. Sometimes the shows are violent, because they are based on a true story that has a lot of violence in it, such as *Saving Private Ryan*, which was based on WWII. Some students may watch a violent movie and then decide to **imitate** some violent things that they see in the movie. However, the majority of students who watch the same movies do not act out the behavior they see on the screen or on TV. Most students can tell the difference between what is pretend and what is real. It is fair to say that most violent films do show the classic war between good and evil with the good guys winning most of the time. Violent movies can **expose** students to dangers that they would not know about and can make **sheltered** students more street-smart.

Cons

Too much violence on TV shows and movies can make students **insensitive** to violence. They may start to think that such violence is normal, and that it is ok to be violent. Movies can make it seem very easy to commit crimes and get away from the police. This can make students think that it is easy to commit crimes or run from the police and put themselves in danger. Heroes in many movies give the **impression** that the hero will never die, even though he has been shot, stabbed and beaten many times. They do not give a realistic view of the damage one gunshot can do to a person or how beating someone can cause serious head injuries and even death.

Vocabulary Matching:

Use context clues from the story to match the word to its meaning.

Sheltered

Effect on a person

Expose things

Protected, to not know about bad things