



At the end of the lesson, the student will be able to:
*discuss the appropriate shows/films for young children.



Read the Article:

Nobody believes that media by themselves cause **aggression**. But Leonardo Eron and Rowell Huesmann of the University of Michigan found in a 22-year study following kids from third grade through adulthood that the **single best predictor** of later aggression is a heavy childhood diet of **TV carnage**. "Of course not every youngster is affected" says Eron. "Not everyone who gets lung cancer smoked cigarettes. And not everyone who smokes cigarettes gets lung cancer. But nobody outside the tobacco industry denies that smoking causes lung cancer."

Much of the most effective research has been done on children because they are considered most **susceptible**. As Centerwall puts it, "Later variations in exposure, in **adolescence** and adulthood, do not exert any additional effect. Psychologists have used four theories of learning to describe how TV violence may influence kids:

They learn to imitate what they see on TV, especially when the behavior is rewarded; from the frequency of violence on TV they learn that violence is normal; they become **desensitized** to real people's suffering; and they become **aroused** by images on television, triggering violent responses. Early researchers, following Aristotle, thought media violence might be **cathartic**, **purging** violent urges, but experiments have not borne this out.

In a classic series of lab experiments in the early 1960s, researchers first frustrated a group of preschool kids, then showed them TV footage of a man hitting a clown doll. Afterward, the kids who saw the violence were more likely to mimic it on a similar doll.

Results imply that what matters most is the type or treatment of violence: that screen **mayhem** that is rewarded will encourage aggression, but that which is punished will inhibit it. By this logic, a heroic John Wayne movie might well be more damaging than a senseless slasher movie, especially if the **villain** is punished



Let's Talk:

1. How much influence on violent behavior does adult viewing of movies on TV have?
2. How long have psychologists known that TV teaches behavior?
3. Why does it seem paradoxical that watching more violence may actually reduce violent activity?



Express Yourself:

1. Do you believe kids imitate what they see on TV and in the movies?
2. Do you think it would be right to keep all violent movies from kids?
3. What do you think about making it a law to include a V- chip (a computer chip that would enable parents to block objectionable programs) in all TV sets?
4. Do you want an external group to decide what is appropriate at what age?
5. Do you think limiting violent programs on TV endangers the freedom of speech?