

Research Paper

Documenting the Media Revolution

We are in a time when the mass media is redefining itself at a speed and depth unmatched in human history. Basic definitions of various long-established mass media are rapidly evolving to include digital formats that would have seemed the stuff of science fiction a few years ago. Furthermore, as mass media becomes more pervasive and powerful, its impact on individuals and the larger society have become topics of scholarly research. Your paper will be written about one of the mass media topics listed below. Choose a topic that interests you and for which you can find a variety of high quality sources.

1. Television and Childhood Obesity:

- 1.1 What does scholarly research have to say about the obesity rates of children who watch a lot of television?
- 1.2 Does the research indicate that TV watching causes childhood obesity, or are the two simply correlated with one another? What does the research say about causality?
- 1.3 Has scholarly research turned up any other possible negative effects related to small children who watch a lot of television?
- 1.4 You be the parent: How should parents manage the television intake of their children? Use guidelines released by reputable organizations as appropriate.

2. Cyberbullying

- 2.1 What is “Cyberbullying”? How is it done and how prevalent is it?
- 2.2 What types of people are most likely to be cyberbullied? What types of people are most likely to be cyberbullies? Is cyberbullying typically done by individuals or by groups of people?
- 2.3 In what noteworthy ways have parents, schools, police and others responded to cyberbullying?
- 2.4 You be the parent: What would you do to minimize the chance that your child becomes a victim of cyberbullies?

3. Video Games and Violence:

- 3.1 What does scholarly research have to say about the possible negative effects of playing violent video games?
- 3.2 Does the research indicate that violent video games causes the players to become more aggressive, or is it just a correlation?
- 3.3 Do violent online games with massive numbers of users affect the players any differently than games that are played alone?
- 3.4 You be the parent: How would you regulate your child’s video game playing at age 5, age 10, and age 15?

This paper will be an analysis based upon your research. Research the four questions as they pertain to your research topic. Divide your paper into six segments:

- A. Introduction,
- B. Answer to Question 1
- C. Answer to Question 2
- D. Answer to Question 3
- E. Answer to Question 4
- F. Conclusion

Find credible sources to research your answers. You will be graded on the quantity and quality of your sources, and how well you use them in your text. Cite your sources, MLA style, as you use them in the text. Be sure to use full MLA-style citation information in your works cited section. Students who merely provide a list of web addresses will be marked down.

Length: Around 1500 words (plus works cited section).

Research

The depth and quality of your research matters. Citing your textbook or what is said during class really isn't impressive in a college research paper. Your research should branch out beyond the classroom and the textbook. Dictionaries and encyclopedias (including Wikipedia) have some value as background information, but should not be cited as sources in the text. Be careful about using web sites as sources; many of them are not credible. If you cannot clearly state who is the writer of the material on the web site and what qualifies that person or persons to be an authority on the subject, then you probably do not have a credible source.

There is no "correct" opinion about any of the research topics. Whatever your topic and your opinion on it, make sure that you find credible sources that support your case. Remember: (1) more sources are better than fewer, (2) high-quality sources are better than low-quality sources, and (3) cited sources that clearly enhance your paper are better than sources that make no apparent impact on the text.

Due Date