

Media Violence Homework Review Exercise

Here's a take home exercise to add to the media inventory the kids are keeping.

For this week, in addition to their media inventory, ask the children to select one hour in which they'll create a "violence inventory" of the show or shows they watch during that hour. It can be more than one program, and it can be a sports event, a news program, or any program they might normally watch during this time frame.

Ask that when they record the violent acts, not to be concerned about whether they are gratuitous or non-gratuitous acts of violence. Remind them that sometimes we get so desensitized that things slip by us unnoticed so they should try to be extra alert.

They'll record the name of the show, what channel it's on, and what day and time of day. This is important because certain times of day are supposed to be free of excess violence and are considered to be "family viewing times."

Every time they see an act of violence, they'll put one check next to the appropriate type of violence, we've included both physical and verbal violence categories and subcategories of

◆ hit ◆ punched ◆ kicked ◆ pushed ◆ shoved ◆ shot ◆ knifed ◆ killed ◆ various martial arts' acts ◆ damaged property ◆ put-downs ◆ name-calling ◆ screaming ◆ lying

Instruct them to feel free to add anything else that they notice with a description of what it is. We don't pretend to have everything covered here but think we've got the main issues.