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Sample Body Paragraph

Directions: Please read the following paragraph aloud and then label the following criteria for a body paragraph listed below. You can highlight in different colors to show labeling. After you are done labeling, please turn to a neighbor and discuss your answers.

(TS, TE, COMM, TE, COMM, Acknowledge opposition, accommodate or refute, TE, COMM, Concluding sentence)

Claim for essay:

Parents should monitor what their children are watching, for media violence causes many detrimental effects such as the pollution of values and standards that children grow up with, the increase in aggression, and in long-term, the occurrence of emotional damage that will stain our children’s future lives.

Another effect that media violence has on children is that a long-term exposure to such violence and a continuous life of aggression can eventually cause emotional “desensitization”. Desensitization is when emotions become dulled; violent scenes do not seem surprising, gory deaths do not stimulate your emotions, and blood is just an obvious result of torture and suffering. Normally, increased heart rates, perspiration, and self-reports of discomfort often accompany such exposure. L. Rowell Huesmann and Laramie D. Taylor, both professors in communication studies, state that with repeated exposure to violence, this negative emotional response habituates, and the child becomes desensitized. The child can then think about and plan proactive aggressive acts without experiencing negative effect (4). When people are exposed to shockingly gory deaths or overly violent action scenes, they feel uncomfortable. But continuous and repeated exposure to media violence causes children to adapt the idea of violence, so that when they grow up, violence is not an issue; it’s just another part of life. As they become desensitized, their basic human mind is altered and recreated. Moreover, Deborah A. Fisher, a research scientist in the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, says that “[desensitization] also exists on an interpersonal level and is exhibited by less sympathy for the victims of violence and a decreased willingness to intervene in a conflict even if only to summon an adult for help” (2). So not only does this cause problems personally, but also socially. The “right thing to do” does not compute to those who have become desensitized. They think that whatever conflict is happening really isn’t an issue to worry about. They do not feel the need to call for help when others are in danger. Through the exposure to a violent digital world, children grow up to be morally misguided, emotionless people who do not feel sympathy nor compassion. In the end, continuous exposure to media violence will cause children to become nothing but cold, brainwashed human beings. Some believe that negative effects of media violence are highly exaggerated since many times the effects are short term, and that there are many other variables that can influence the development of aggression. These individuals argue that mental illnesses, drug abuse, histories of domestic violence, exposure to gangs, etc. are all possible reasons that may have altered the results of the studies of the influence of media violence, and it is unreasonable to blame media violence for a increase in aggression when the reasons behind real-world violence cannot be traced back to a single cause (Jenkins). This is true; violence in the real world is caused by a variety of reasons, not media violence on its own. However, it is evident that media violence does contribute to the increase in aggressive behavior, even if it is not the sole reason behind the matter. Also, even though the effects of media violence seem to be short termed and dissipate quickly, when repeated, a more permanent consequence settles in which is internalized within the mind and attitude (Anderson). Yes, the effects are short term, but these short term effects accumulate to cause permanent changes in behavior. And yes, media violence is not the only factor that causes real life violence, but nevertheless it contributes to the growth of the problem, and this means that children are receiving negative influence that may harm their future