

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2006 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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Project Number

S0312

Project Title

Cartoon Violence

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

The objective of this project is to demonstrate that male children are more influenced from the violence in cartoons compared to female children. This project also proves that male children perform much more violently after watching cartoons that contain a great amount of violence. The goal of this project is to inform adults and critics about how children, especially male children give off anger and tension from cartoons into their own real life, not knowing that a cartoon is not based on reality. This eventually affects the way they speak and the fashion in which they react to others in their future as adults. This project is to alert and request the cautiousness in our communities, because the children are our future, and whether we like to admit it or not, the basis of our future really comes from the media itself, such as the newspapers, television, or violent cartoons.

Methods/Materials

The materials used in with children in pre-kindergarten were crayons, papers, DVD#s which display violence, a video camera, and a television. During the experiments, seven girls and boys were utilized. Each group was given a period of ten to fifteen minutes to watch cartoons in which display violence. After this phase, the children were asked to draw anything they wished. The catch was that they all had to share a crayon or two. This way, it would be easy to distinguish if the violence in the cartoon had an effect on the female or male children.

Results

The male children demonstrated 268 violent actions during their time of drawing, and the female children demonstrated only 85 violent actions during their time of drawing.

Conclusions/Discussion

The hypothesis for this project was proven correct. The violence in cartoons does have a greater effect on male children compared to female children. Most cartoons have the wrong influence on children, especially boys, at a very young. The cartoons that are viewed by many children possess a huge impact in a child#s mind. Advertising and endorsing such immorality is not just encouraging future violence but promoting it to young girls and boys, that violence in cartoons is allowed and is not considered wrong. The environment needs to eliminate such thought and proceed with educational and non-violent cartoons for children, even if it would not sell. Promoting violence to innocent children should not be considered a method of business.

Summary Statement

This project is about how male children are much more influence by the violence in cartoons compared to female children.

Help Received

Student helped record the experminet on video camera.