

Explanatory Synthesis Introduction and Body Paragraph Examples

INTRODUCTION EXAMPLE

The average American views television for an average of seven hours and 13 minutes per day, a number that is rising with the increase in the availability of satellite and cable services. Much of this programming is exceedingly violent, and for years now, it has been important to ask exactly how influential is media violence to modern society? Many researchers, doctors, and psychologists are debating the issue. Gregg Easterbrook, author of “Watch and Learn,” cites an example from a popular horror film, *Scream*, and argues that the film contains elements that that might have influenced the Columbine High School shooting in Littleton, Colorado. In both movie and real life, students and faculty members were tormented and taunted by their killers (fellow students) before being executed. Conversely, in the essay “The Scapegoat We Love to Hate,” Jonathan Kellerman, a clinical professor of pediatrics and psychology, argues that while the media are always blamed for real-life crime, there is, in fact, no contributing link between media carnage and crimes committed in the real world (Kellerman 408).

a subtopic, introduced, then viewed from both positions]

Where the authors differ most widely is on the issue of what course to take in preventing future real-world violence. Kellerman testifies that “social problems may require long-term solutions, but that shouldn’t deter us from seeking efficient, short-term solutions to severe juvenile crime” (Kellerman 407). He further directs that parents could limit the access their children have to these gruesome images, and reminds readers that the suppression of violence-infested programs for all viewers is unconstitutional, impractical, and inappropriate. It is not correct to punish all of society for such a small percentage of wrongdoers’ actions (Kellerman 411-2).

Easterbrook, for his part, claims movie ratings should be monitored more strictly and use the NC-17 rating when applicable if the movie exceeds the R rating (546). His suggestions include more rigorous ID checks and movie content ratings that are more strictly enforced and monitored.