

Technology/Media Choices

Month: Mar.

Week #: 26

Day: b. Tues. Time: 30 min.

# Rate the TV Show

Life Tree Learning Systems ©

**Objectives/Aims**

The students will: critically analyze some TV shows and movies and rate them based on various criteria so that the students might become more discerning media consumers.

**Materials**

white board and markers

**Illustration**

Yes, Oliver liked that TV show so much that he tried it out on his friend. The friend doesn't look very happy!

**Background**

In the same way that the food we eat effects our body, what we watch on TV and in movies affects our inner selves. How it affects us is still often debated. When it comes to children's programming, however, there is now definite research as to how especially aggressive and violent media affects children's behavior.



**Group Activity**

1. Say, "Today we are going to critically examine some of the TV shows and movies you have watched

to help you decide whether they are good, mediocre or bad. The criteria by which we will be judging them and what they mean are (write each of the criteria on the board and explain each one):

Educational - intentionally teaches something academic or social that you can learn

Entertaining - is funny, adventurous; holds your attention; is not boring

Nonviolent - doesn't show harm to self, others or environment (Note: Hunting for food and aggressive behaviors by animals, while they are violent acts, are considered natural in that animals are acting out of instinct whereas humans have a choice.)

Peaceful - shows caring and respectful behaviors towards self, others and environment (not only are we looking for the absence of violence, but for a positive response to life as well).

Age Appropriate - is appropriate for children and does not have adult themes (realizing that many students have watched few, if any, adult-oriented programs, this criteria is raised primarily to make students conscious of this issue).

Continue by saying, "We will rate each criteria based on a scale of 1 - 5, with 1 being terrible, 2 being bad, 3 being mediocre, 4 being good and 5 being excellent. We will then add up all of the results from all five criteria to score the program."

2. Select TV shows or movies that the majority of the students have seen. Try to choose different genres of shows. Have a student give a detailed description of the show for those students that have not seen it. Go through each criterion, first inviting discussion, and then have the students rate it by holding up the appropriate number of fingers. Do a quick tally in your mind and compute

### **Group Activity (continued)**

an approximate average. Record the average next to the criterion and repeat the procedure for all of the remaining criteria. Add up all of the criteria averages to get a final score for the show.

### **Group Discussion Questions**

1. We know the kind of food you eat affects the physical well being of your body. Do you think the kind of TV or movies you watch affect you on the inside as a person? Why?

A: Opinions will vary.

2. Do you think the amount of violence in a show affects a child's behavior?

A. "Over thirty years, findings have consistently demonstrated that violence on TV correlates with subsequent aggressive behavior. Recent evidence from an extensive longitudinal study carried out in four different countries suggests there is a sensitive period that begins before age eight when children are especially susceptible to the effects of violence shown on TV." Taken from "Research on the Effects of TV"

### **Variations/Extensions**

1. Watch clips taken from different TV shows or movies.

### **Conclusion**

Say, "TV shows and movies can teach us things, take us to faraway lands and on fantastic adventures. This entertaining medium can give us a needed break from the stress in our lives. However, some programs are not good for children. They contain too much violence, they scare us or are about things that only adults are mature enough to understand and handle. Like eating junk food that affects your body in a bad way, bad TV and movie choices can hurt your inner self. Your parents can help you make wise decisions."



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His friend doesn't look very happy!**