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Word Generation - Unit 2.16

Focus Words

rating | ban | interact | occur | complex



Weekly Passage

Movies were not rated in the U.S. for many decades. Then in 1968, the Motion Picture Association of America began rating films for children and adults. Ratings are usually given instead of banning or restricting a film. Rating movies is complex because people disagree about the specific factors that should be included in deciding a rating, such as sex, violence, and profanity. In the United States, movies in which sexual activity occurs are often restricted to older viewers, while in countries such as Germany or France sexual content is not such a big deal. However, violent movies receive restrictive ratings or are censored in those countries while in the United States they are not.

Today, video games, books, TV shows, and music also get rated. Those who like the rating system say it helps people decide if a movie is right for them or their children. Parents can tell quickly if a movie might offend them and whether or not it is okay for their children. Parents who are more worried about the moral content of a movie or game, rather than how many times a swear word is used, can use an alternative rating system.

While the names and meanings of the ratings have changed over the years, today there are five possible ratings for movies. G stands for General

Audiences. It means that there is no sex, violence, or profanity, and the movie is fine for all ages. PG stands for Parental Guidance Suggested. It means that some of the movie content might not be okay for kids. PG-13 gives parents a stronger caution. It indicates that some of the movie might not be okay for kids under 13. R is for Restricted. R means you must be with an adult to even get in the theater. Finally there is NC-17 for No One 17 and Under Admitted.

Some people don't like rating systems because they may be used for maximizing profits rather than protecting the public. Movies rated PG and PG-13 make more money than those rated R and some Hollywood executives lower standards for major movie studios to make sure that the film gets a certain rating. Parents who do not interact with their children or pay attention to their interests may not even know what a certain rating on a video game or book means. Furthermore, a young gamer who is stopped from buying a title because it is "too mature" might try to have someone older buy it. Making rating systems work is complex.

What do you think about this? Do you think people should be restricted in what they can buy or see? Are rating systems necessary?

**Unit 2.16 -
Violence and media:
are ratings systems necessary?
Focus Word Chart**

Word	Meaning	Forms	Examples of Use	Notes
rating	(n.) - a classification, an ordering			
ban	(v.) - to forbid			
interact	(v.) - to communicate, to have social contact with			
occur	(v.) - to happen			
complex	(adj.) - complicated; of many parts			

Unit 2.16 - Violence and media: are ratings systems necessary? Problem of the Week



Instead of **banning** adult content in movies, the Motion Picture Association of America gives **ratings** to let viewers know what **occurs** in a movie. The **interactions** between a movie's creators and the MPAA can be **complex**. For example, if a movie's creators are unhappy with a rating, they can edit and re-submit their movie to the MPAA until they get the rating they want.

Rating	Average Earnings Per Film 1995 – 2010
PG-13	\$41,237,141
G	\$37,692,288
PG	\$36,591,876
R	\$14,934,641
Not Rated	\$740,664

Option 1: According to the table, which of the following is true?

- A) If a movie is rated PG-13, it will definitely earn more money than a movie rated R.
- B) On average, movies rated PG-13 earned more money than movies rated PG.
- C) On average, movies rated R earned more money than PG-rated movies.
- D) Movies that were not rated did not earn any money.

Option 2: If these average earnings stay true, how much is it worth to a movie's creators to have a rating changed from R to PG-13?

Math Discussion Question: From 1995 – 2010, the average movie with a G, PG, or PG-13 **rating** earned much more than the average movie with an R rating. Why? Here is one possible explanation: for some parents, watching movies is a way to **interact** with their kids. They see a movie together, and then talk about it afterwards. This kind of **occurrence** helps parents and kids build strong relationships. Is this a good explanation? Do R-rated movies earn less money because parents don't take their kids to see them? Or is the situation more **complex**?

Violence and media: are ratings systems necessary? Debating the Issue



GO!

I. Get ready...

Pick one of these positions (or create your own).

A The rating systems in place now provide useful guidance for families.

B The rating systems we use should be improved and expanded.

C Rating systems are unnecessary. People should watch or play what they want.

D The rating systems we have are fine but parents and vendors need to pay more attention.

E _____

Be a strong participant by using phrases like these.

...because...

I disagree with part of that...

An example might help convince me. Can you give me an example?

What part of the passage makes you think that?

2. Get set...

Be ready to provide evidence to back up your position during your class discussion or debate. Jot down a few quick notes:

Unit 2.16 - Violence and media: are ratings systems necessary?

Science Activity

In today's lesson on the brain, Professor Seemy is talking about mirror neurons.

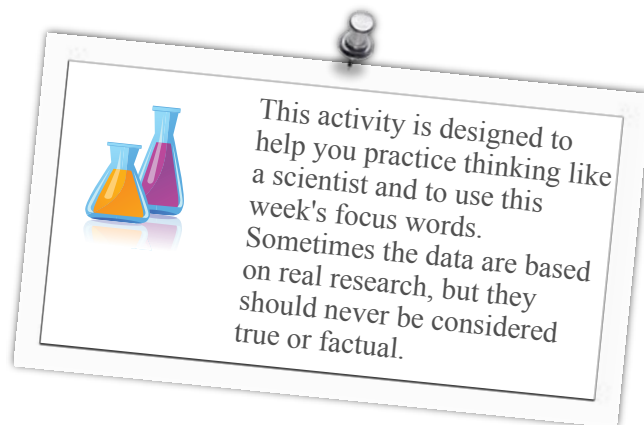
"When I touch my ear, neurons fire," Professor Seemy says. "When I watch *you* touch your ear, something interesting **occurs**. Some of those same neurons fire again. We call these neurons *mirror neurons*."

Professor Seemy continues. "Mirror neurons help us **interact** with other people. When we see someone smile, mirror neurons remind us what it feels like to smile. They also help us imitate **complex** behavior, like dance steps."

Jamal has been studying media violence, and he has an idea. "Hey, mirror neurons could explain why TV violence makes people violent in real life," he says. "When a kid watches Spiderman punch, mirror neurons help her understand punching, and also help her imitate it."

"Wait, Jamal. Does TV really make people more violent?" asks Jennifer. "If it does, I could understand why some people want to **ban** extreme violence in the media."

"A great question," says Professor Seemy. "Let's take a look at the data!"



Question:

Does TV-watching lead to violence?

Hypothesis:

Children who watch more TV will be more violent later in life.

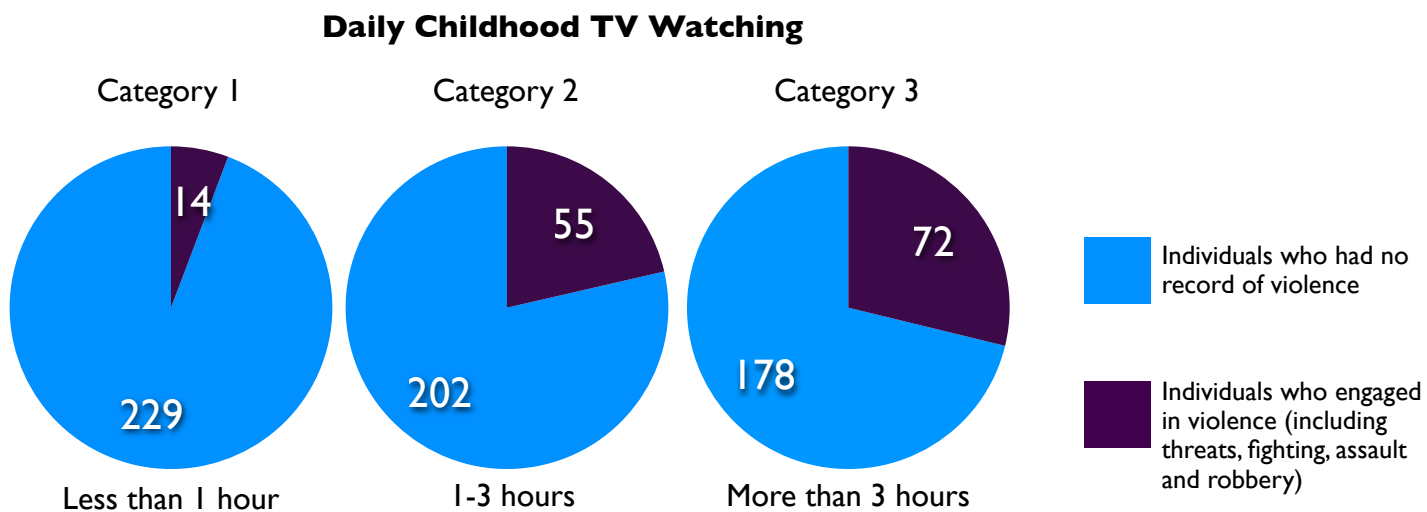
Materials:

- ▶ data set from 750 children, who were observed for 17 years

Procedure:

1. Divide subjects into categories according to childhood TV habits.
2. Count the number of subjects in each category who committed a violent act.

Data:



Conclusion:

Is the hypothesis supported or not by the data?

What evidence supports your conclusion?

How would you make this a better experiment?



Writing Prompt

Are ratings systems necessary?

Focus Words

rating | ban | interact | occur | complex

Support your position with clear reasons and specific examples. Try to use relevant words from the Word Generation list in your response.

Lined writing area for student response.

A tool to help you think about your own writing!

Remember you can use focus words from any of the WG Units.

Check off what you accomplished:

Good Start

- Stated my own position
- Included 1 focus word

Pretty Good

- Stated my own position clearly
- Included 1-2 arguments
- Included 1-2 focus words

Exemplary

- Stated my own position clearly
- Included 1-2 arguments
- Included 1 counterargument
- Used 2-5 focus words

A series of 22 horizontal lines for writing, evenly spaced across the page.