

Class: 6A

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Topic: Violence in Movies

Text Type: Letter to the Editor

Is Violence in Movies that Unacceptable?

I am writing in response to a letter in the *Hong Kong Post* in which the writer argued that films which contain violence negatively affect our society. As we all know, many movies nowadays contain violence and it is generally accepted by the public. I believe these films are appropriate and they should not be banned. They are simply reflecting what happens in the real world. I hold this belief for the following reasons.

First and foremost, violence is inevitable in real life. Browse through the Internet and you will probably discover that there is news about violence from all around the world, ranging from burglary to murder. When shooting films about criminals and illegal activities, it is impossible to avoid violent behavior. Instead of creating a virtual world where people live harmoniously and peacefully together, I think movie companies should produce movies that reflect the genuine world, even if they are fictional. Reality is cruel and full of flaws; we have to acknowledge it and figure out measures to make improvement. Take the latest movie, "Joker" as an example. There are countless explosions and fights in the story with people screaming and killed. Indeed, the movie exaggerates what is happening in the real world, but what is more significant is that it reveals the problem of inequalities and social injustice. No one will question that violence is dreadful, but what we are obligated to do is to face the problem directly. Neglecting the existence of violence is short-sighted and timid. In other words, keeping violence in movies reflects the truth instead of withholding it.

Furthermore, films containing violence help us understand how precious harmony is. Some think that watching violent movies make people irritable and resort to violence. On the contrary, many movies with violent content are highly educational, such as "Saving Private Ryan". The story takes place in World War Two, where a group of soldiers were told to save a private. During the movie, moviegoers will learn about the war crimes committed by both the US and Germany. They will witness how innocent

people were tortured to death. The experience will definitely be saddening, which in turn would make viewers understand how disgraceful wars are. They will also comprehend that life is vulnerable and thus, cherish every moment in their lives. Despite the fact that the story is not real, it is still conducive to understanding the importance of humanity and peace. What is more, movies about school life may also involve violence. Verbal violence is omnipresent in our daily lives, although it is hard to notice. Watching these movies would be a great chance for us to examine whether our behavior spreads hatred in the campus. Hence, films containing violence could be highly educational.

Some may argue that movies with mindless violence would adversely affect people's psychological health, especially teenagers. Because of immaturity, teenagers may go astray and imitate the violent acts in movies. This kind of opinion seems reasonable at first glance, but we can find that it is a fallacy if we examine it closely. First of all, adolescents are prohibited from watching movies with sexual and violent content, according to the law in Hong Kong. Besides, it is unfair to blame movies containing violence. As the old saying goes, 'every rose has its thorn.' It is an undoubted fact that these movies may negatively affect students slightly. Nevertheless, schools and families are responsible to make a concerted effort to inculcate proper values in teenagers. It is obviously unfair to neglect the benefits brought by movies.

Overall, films which contain violence have already become part of our life. I hope everyone will agree that these movies are not harmful at all as long as we enjoy them with a critical and independent mind.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wong

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