

## The Question

**Movies and television strongly influence the way people behave. Do you agree or disagree? Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.**

## The Sample Essay

Most people agree that all forms of entertainment affect society. In my opinion, movies and television shows really do influence how people behave. I feel this way for two reasons, which I will explore in the following essay.

First of all, films and television provide society with a lot of negative role-models, which many people are willing to emulate. These days, the so-called “anti-hero” is a big part of popular culture. This is a type of character who acts badly around other people, ignores the rules of society and has a really misanthropic attitude. Commonly, these characters glorify excessive violence and drug use. My own personal experience is a compelling example of this. When I was in high school, a close friend of mine was a huge fan of characters like this. While he started high school as a straight-A student, he later began to watch a lot of films which gave him the impression that taking drugs and fighting with his classmates was amusing and even desirable behavior. As a result, he barely finished high school and is now unemployed. Moreover, he has few job prospects. Had he not watched so many terrible movies, he would not be in such a desperate situation today.

On the other hand, TV shows and movies also provide people with a lot of positive role models. For people who desire to watch wholesome shows, there are many family-friendly options to choose from. Programs of this type showcase functioning and stable families. They don't just show traditional and conservative families, but caring, loving people from many different backgrounds and with many different beliefs. For instance, my

own family often takes inspiration from the parents and children we see on our favorite family drama, "The Bosby Show." We are not always able to live up to the ideals the show presents to us, but they positively influence the way we behave every day. We are really thankful for the influence it has on our lives.

In conclusion, I am of the opinion that television and movies influence the way almost everyone behaves in modern society. This is because some movies cause us to act in detrimental ways, and because other shows inspire us to emulate and embrace positive values. (370 words)

## The Question

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People communicate with each other less than in the past because of the popularity of television. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

## The Sample Essay

These days almost everyone spends a lot of time watching their favorite television programs. However, I strongly believe that the advent of televised entertainment has not had a negative effect on interpersonal communication. I feel this way for two main reasons, which I will explore in the following essay.

To begin with, I contend that television actually helps people to have more meaningful conversations. In the past, people mostly talked about what they had in common. Often, talk of this sort was quite limited because people lived fairly simple lives. These days, in contrast, individuals can enjoy spirited discussions about the wide array of current events and world affairs that they hear about on television every day. For example, I have a regular Friday lunch date with my work colleagues at a local restaurant. We do talk about office affairs, but most of our conversations are about the wide world around us which we learn about from watching television. We talk about everything from political developments in distant countries to sports results from entirely different continents. I strongly believe that without television to supply us with topics, my colleagues and I would talk mainly about banal office gossip.

Secondly, I am of the opinion that television has mostly replaced solitary activities, rather than interactions with others. It appears that television has mainly taken the place of hobbies like reading and exercising

that we used to do alone. My own experience is compelling evidence of this. I grew up in a very rural area without access to stable television signals. As a result, I spent my time either hanging out with friends or just reading books and magazines. When I started university, however, I moved to a big city and suddenly had access to one hundred channels. Almost immediately, watching shows and movies replaced reading as my primary hobby, but I still had time to do things with my classmates. I now read almost no books, but I still have meaningful conversations with friends on a regular basis.

In conclusion, I disagree with the idea that the advent of television has harmed communication between friends and family. I feel this way because television supplies us with a variety of topics which we can discuss with our friends, and because television-watching has mostly replaced solitary hobbies rather than social activities.

## The Question

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "When people succeed, it is entirely because of hard work. Luck has nothing to do with their success." Use specific reasons and examples to explain your position.

## The Sample Essay

We have all heard stories about people who have achieved success in their life, and we often wonder how they did it. Personally, I believe that success is only the result of hard work and perseverance. I feel this way for two main reasons, which I will explore in the following essay.

To begin with, success is always the result of hard work over a long period of time. Success happens gradually, and only after a series of correct decisions and small victories. A stroke of luck, in contrast, is generally perceived to be a one-time event. The experience of my uncle, a successful entrepreneur, is a compelling example of what I mean. Since 2005, he has run a very profitable technology firm which manufactures and sells a wide range of products. His business started very small when he invested his savings to develop and market a single product and hire his first employee. When that product became popular, my uncle compounded his success by introducing new products and gradually increasing the size of his company. His company later grew from a single employee to include a staff of dozens. While my uncle might have been lucky at one stage of his company's growth, the long-term success of his firm cannot simply be the result of good fortune.

Secondly, success is usually the result of careful planning, research and education, all of which require a lot of work to achieve. For instance, some people said that my uncle was lucky when his initial product offering

was successful. However, he was confident that his product would be a hit even before he started manufacturing it. This is because he spent thousands of dollars on market research and focus groups. It was this investment of time and money, not luck, which assured the early success of his business. Likewise, when his small firm merged with another firm just before that company rose to prominence some called him lucky. However, my uncle had spent weeks interviewing the research and development team at that company and predicted their success based on what they told him. Had he not been confident of their potential, he would not have completed the merger. Again, this victory was the result of diligence rather than luck, despite what some observers say about it.

In conclusion, I firmly believe that success comes as a result of hard work. This is because success takes a lot of time to achieve, and it also required very careful planning. (423 words)

## The Question

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Nowadays, it is better for children to grow up in the countryside than in a large city. Use specific reasons and examples to develop your essay.

## The Sample Essay

It is critically important that all children be raised in a supportive and healthy environment. In my opinion, it is more advantageous to raise young people in major city, than to raise them in a rural area. I feel this way for two main reasons, which I will explore in the following essay.

First of all, cities include a vast number of academic and cultural facilities, all of which help the intellectual development of children. A child who visits such places on a regular basis will undoubtedly become