Children, Games, and Violence: Annotated Bibliography


Sociologist Joel Best argues that social anxiety about popular children's entertainment—especially that they might exert "dark" influence over—are not new. He points to newspaper and book commentaries dating back a century to demonstrate that these kinds of fears have been around for a long time. Back then, people worried about violent imagery in the cheap adventure novels sold to boys. In more recent times, the focus shifted to movies and television, and it now hovers around violent video games. This article is relevant to my paper because it asserts that violence in terms of children's playtime and toys has been an on-going issue since before video games were invented, which supports my claim that video games cannot be held responsible for aggressive behaviors in children.


Psychiatric researchers Guy Poiter and Vladan Starcevic conducted a broad examination of the literature on video games and aggression that was available in 2007 when this article was published. Their analysis includes a study that found that adolescents who play violent video games also exhibit more hostility and aggressive behavior through fights, arguments, and poor school performance. The authors also reviewed studies involving individuals playing violent video games in a laboratory setting that demonstrate a connection between the video game play and aggressive feelings and behaviors. They conclude that while available evidence does not demonstrate a direct causal connection...
between violent play and violent acts, it does suggest that violent play has the potential to worsen "hostile" and "antisocial" personal traits in individuals already possessing violent tendencies.

The research article is crucial to my claim of violet video games not being the cause of violence being made because it presents reasonable and scientifically-founded doubt that video games caused violence.