

People all over the world use media everyday. Whether it's using a computer, watching TV, reading a newspaper, talking on the phone or listening to the radio, media is a way to communicate. Through the media, you can find out about important news, listen to your favorite music or watch your favorite TV show. But there are also negative sides of the media that can be especially harmful to teens.



Website:

Teenagerstoday.com

Phone number:

Media Influence on Teenagers



Stereotype

Unfortunately, most of the media you are exposed to do not show people in a realistic way. Characters on TV are often shown with unrealistic "perfect" bodies. Women are shown as too thin and men are shown with larger-than-life muscles. Photographs in magazines or billboards are edited on the computer to erase flaws and imperfections. Even if you know that what you see is not normal or not real, it can still impact you.



Violence

The media teaches kids that violence is acceptable. In video games, the way to beat an opponent is to punch, kick or knock him out. In some video games, you might even kill your opponent. In movies, the good guy wins when he violently defeats his enemy. A study showed that 4-year olds have a greater chance of being bullies when they are older if they watch a lot of violent TV. Seeing violent behavior on TV or through other forms of media can also make teens act more violently.



School

According to Common Sense Media, kids who watch a lot of TV have smaller vocabularies and lower test scores in school. Also, these kids do not read as well as kids who watch less TV. Another study shows that the people with the highest degrees watched less TV as kids and teenagers. A third study shows that different forms of media affect schoolwork differently.

