

2.6 – 1 SA: Human Aggression

In Aronson's view, how is aggression best defined?

Much aggression is due to frustration? What role does social learning play? Are we living in the midst of an epidemic of "domestic violence?" What chances do we have of reducing violence?

- Distinguish between hostile and instrumental aggression
- Define and evaluate the "catharsis" hypothesis
- Identify possible causes of aggression: neurochemical, biological, hormonal
- What's wrong with testosterone?
- How do alcohol and other "recreational" drugs influence social propensities toward aggressiveness?
- What about the role of pain and discomfort?
- Of frustration and aggression?
- How influential is social learning? Can education help in reducing violence (strengthening alternative behaviors, learning to adopt different perspectives, building empathy toward others, etc.?)