

2.6 – 3 Your (study group's) choice of a contemporary tv show with extreme violence

As you prepare to watch the program, try to assume the identity of a human-like alien from the far-off planet Pacifica where people are accustomed to living in relatively violence-free societies. Pretend that you have just arrived on earth on a mission to learn about conditions of human life here and that, based on what you are about to see on tv, you must shortly transmit a preliminary report describing your observations and conclusions thus far relating to the behavior and "human nature" of earthlings and how they think and feel and act and why they behave the way they do. After watching the program, prepare some notes for your report.

But what about the often-heard argument being put forth currently (e.g. by various "sociobiologists" and "evolutionary psychologists") that the root causes of human violence are "in our genes"?