IS TV A GOOD OR BAD INFLUENCE?

Eucharia, Ireland: Is TV a good or bad influence? Well, most people would say it's a bad influence but my university lecturer when I was in university, quite some time ago had a very interesting take, he said that media doesn't influence society, that these behaviors are learned. He used the example of Japan at that time having the lowest crime rate in the world and the most violent media in the world, including video games, manga, which are the comics, and in general, Japanese TV, so yeah, there are two ways to think about it. Most people would immediately say it's a bad influence but maybe it's not.

Mark, United States: I don't think TV's a bad thing but I never ever watch it because it is extremely addictive, or I'm extremely, I can get very addicted to it. If I turn on the TV, I will watch it for two hours, but I'll just flip through the channels without actually stopping on any one thing, so I never turn on the TV.

Kate, New Zealand: I think TV can be good and bad. First of all, it can be good like for example the learning channels, discovery channels, animal planet, things, such channels like those. However, of course there's bad points to TV such as violence and fighting which should not be watched by small children. In fact, in my country, they put the more violent scenes and more violent channels after 8 p.m., once the children have gone to bed.

Jeannie, United States: TV is both good and bad. It's not really the TV's fault what people are putting on it. Some of the children's programs I say are really good for kids. I used to sit my neice in front of a child's program and she picked up her ABC's pretty quickly and she sung along with the songs and everything, so I think that was pretty good but of course you have programs that are a bit

too violent maybe but they're learning opportunities and you have your nonsense

Rina, Canada: Is TV a good thing or a bad thing? Well, for me I think it's wonderful because it's a form of something that entertains me without asking anything in return. For young children, I think it is a cause of a lot of desensitization but I don't think it is the sole cause of what's going on in the world in general and should be blamed for what is like the shootings and everything, and that's negative happening right now.

Todd, United States: I think television is a very good thing. Not so much for what people can see but what for television can do. TV requires a lot of skilled workers and a lot of people to put on a production so television just creates a lot of jobs and in every country, you need people from your own country to run the television stations to be the cameramen, to do the editing. You need local people to be the actors, technicians, things like that so TV is not and industry where you can export jobs and it's an industry where basically a lot of jobs are provided for local people, so yeah, I think television's a good thing.