

Should the age limits on access to profane content be changed?

Community Unit Source Pool

Instructions: Copy (ctrl + c) and paste (ctrl + v) each of your annotated bibliography entries into the provided space as you complete each entry. Source should be organized alphabetically by the first word in the works cited entry. Be sure that your name is clearly labeled beneath your entry. As you copy and paste, be careful not to split someone else's entry. Once an entry is added to this space, it becomes property of the class, able to be used by any member for their Community Annotated Bibliography.

A

Profanity

Adams, Michael. *In praise of profanity*. Oxford University Press, 2016.

Adams begins the book by talking about the debate over profane language. He says that our society has made the use of profane language an ordinary thing. He quotes examples of media that use profane language in them and about how young children use the language even though they may not understand the meaning. They hear it on a daily basis and think it is permissible to be used by themselves. The younger children do not think it could be a word that has sacrilegious meaning because their elders use it on a normal basis. The fact that profane language is used on mass media means that it is able to be gotten away with anywhere. Adams also stands up for the use of profanity and defends its use in today's time. Profanity can be used positively and negatively. It can be used positively by letting someone know the tone of the conversation that is about to happen. It can be used negatively for abuse with words, emotionally and physically. He says that even though profanity is a big topic of discussion, having a voted resolution to stop it would be pointless. Voting would be pointless because no matter what the conclusion of the resolution is, people will still continue to use it. These people are considered an outlaw and Adams says that you are supposed to shun people like that. If we continue to live like we are in today's transitional time period things that were once extreme vulgarity will continue to become the new norm for our society.

This source passes the TRAAP evaluation and gives me useful resources pertaining to the class research question. It was written in 2016 so the timeliness of the source is very relevant. This source is not the most relevant source for our research question because it does not answer our question, but it is useful because it gives key information pertaining to our topic question. The source is accurate while comparing two different sides of profane language. The information that the author provides include key details about the use of profanity in our culture today. The author of the source, Adams, is able to be trusted because he says that the English language is what he studied. He is also a professor at Indiana University. The purpose of my source, In Praise of Profanity, is to show the use of profanity in communication today. He says that profanity is oversimplified in today's time and that we use it based on emotions or relationships of those around.

Brooke Ladner

Adams, Michael. *In Praise of Profanity*. Oxford University Press, Aug. 2016.

In the book *In Praise of Profanity*, Author Michael Adams lays the ground works on the topic of profanity. He discusses why people swear, in what ways they do so, and whether people should get upset about it. Adams takes a unique stance on the topic and actually defends the use of profanity in our culture. He states that often times profanity is needed to express exactly what one means, just like any other word can be crucial to the meaning of a sentence. One thing not very apparent is profanity is used in many different ways. "The f word" does not have one set meaning, rather depends on the context to understand its intended purpose. This is one reason Adams argues profanity is important to our culture. In one instance it could be used as an insult and even a verbal battery against a person, and in another instance it could be used to show one's comfort with another person. It can set the tone for a conversation as very casual or it can intimidate. Profanity often finds its way into humor almost coming synonymous with the idea of laughter. For example "F* that B*, this is Russia" is much funnier than "Forget about her, this is Russia". This is in the foundation of Adams argument solidifying his point that profanity is often necessary to properly communicate what you mean. The points made in this book are very valid and very helpful information to consider while researching profanity to keep your information unbiased. There is no good research done without considering all sides of the argument.

In *Praise of Profanity* is not a credible source do to the Author's bias and lack of authority on the subject. As far as the other points of the TRAAP method are concerned it would have made for a great source. Having only been published 2 years ago in 2016 it is a very current and timely source. On the topic of our research question timelines is very important to the relevance of a source. A source being even 5 years old could be outdated due to how quickly culture changes. As fare as relevance, the book does not explicitly answer our question but is very relevant to the topic providing key information that can be used to betting understand our research question and the nature of profanity. The information is accurate to the topic giving many examples of profanity in pop culture. Authority is the main reason this source is not very credible. Adams is a self proclaimed expert on profanity simple because he has no problem using it. He has a degree in English but that does not make him an expert on all words of the English language. The purpose seems to be biased, in an attempt to change our society to better accommodate the authors vocabulary.

Zack Munger

Adams, Michael. *In Praise of Profanity*. Oxford University Press, Aug. 2016.

In the first chapter of *In Praise of Profanity*, the author claims that the offensive nature of swear words is all in the mind of the person who is offended. The words themselves are primarily seen as negative because there is a general idea that people who use them are uneducated, immoral, and uncivilized. Yet, softer words that are sometimes used to replace swear words have the same meaning and intent, but do not carry the same negative connotation. The author uses the example of a child character on *Modern Family* using the F-word, but not being aware of the meaning the word carries because she is not mature enough to recognize the offensive side. The child only realizes that the adults are giving her attention when she says it. This example further proves the fact that the words themselves only become offensive when we make them offensive. Advocators for the casual use of profane language often give that same argument along with the comedic aspect. The author gives two examples where the F-word has two completely different connotations. One example shows the author using profanity in an effort to hurt the person on the receiving end. However, the same word can be used lightly in conversation in the same sentence, but with a playful, joking tone rather than a harsh, angry one. Generally, the harmful connotation is defined as profanity while the playful connotation is defined as slang. This

becomes a problem because does that mean both connotations should be censored? How do you know the difference between each connotation?

TRAAP

I believe the timeliness of this source is good because it was written in 2016. Being more current allows the source to add modern ideas of profanity to the conversation because the general public feels differently about it now than a long time ago. This source is not directly related to the question we are asking because it does not talk about how kids are affected by this language. Rather, it gives a different perspective than the typical one you may see, and that perspective could be useful in the essay. The way Adams looks at profanity is uniquely casual. We need to be able to talk about the positives along with the negatives. The topic of profanity is split between those who see it as inherently wrong and those who see it as a casual form of communicating if used correctly. The author looks at both sides, but leans heavily toward the side that is more tolerant of swears. He mostly uses the arguments of people who protest profanity and breaks them down and explains what is wrong with them. His opinion is not unpopular today, but it is also not popular. Michael Adams is trustworthy because his field of study is the English language and he has written multiple books on slang. Not only was he a professor at Indiana University, but he was a Provost Professor. The purpose of *In Praise of Profanity* is to showcase reasons why people should not be scared of profanity and to break down the general negativity surrounding it. The author gives psychological, social, and comedic reasons in support of profane words. There is nothing to gain or lose, but the text provides counter-arguments for a lot of anti-profanity parties.

Emma Smothers

Allan, Keith, and Kate Burridge. "Taboos and their Origins." *Forbidden Words: Taboo and the Censoring of Language*. Cambridge Univ. Press, 2009.

This chapter talks about the origin of the word "taboo." The authors, Keith Allan and Kate Burridge, explain that this word comes from Captain James Cook when he was sent to Tahiti. He was sent there to observe Venus's transit across the sun. While he was there he wrote many journal entries describing the native people's culture. The authors describe the different kinds of taboos in the world including fatal taboos, uncleanly taboos, and less serious taboos. Some taboos, though, as the authors point out, they may seem silly, have a rational origin. The authors share a story about the taboo of spilling salt. Years ago, salt was vital to life. It was used to preserve meat and was quite expensive. Therefore, it was very important that it was treated properly and looked after carefully. However, the chapter points out that not all taboos occur in every culture and in every age. Something that is considered a taboo in culture today may have been perfectly acceptable in a different decade. Taboo refers to a certain behavior that is considered unacceptable in a certain culture. Next, the author explains in detail the topic of censorship. Censorship goes back to Roman times where the censor was in charge of supervising a citizen's moral conduct. The author goes on to describe censorship as it relates to different cultures at different time periods. There is a difference noted in censoring and censorship. Censorship refers to the institution that goes back to the Roman censor. Censoring includes both the institution and also the individual approach. The chapter is ended by connecting the early description of taboo and the later description of censorship. These words, taboo, and censorship, will be the basis for the rest of the book.

This source is a credible source for the proposed research question as it details the background, historical look on language rather than a look at youth in connection to profane content. Therefore it provides a needed background to include when assessing changing the age limits on profanity in the media. Timeliness is ok with this source because it was published nine years ago in 2009 and covers how words

are used in society today in relation to other eras of time. Relevance with this source is strong because even though it does not specifically talk about age limits, it adds to the discussion by giving the background information that is needed to form an opinion. This source is accurate in that it has a very historical perspective. It is not claiming much, rather, it is stating the undeniable facts. The authority of this source is desirable because both authors are professors of linguistics, meaning they do much study on language and are familiar with teaching others about their studies. The purpose of this source was not altogether clear because of the length it took to set up the background. It became clearer as the chapter progressed. As you went deeper into the chapter, the reader was able to understand that the separate stories and facts that were shared contributed to overall discussion of the words, taboo and censorship. I believe that this source passes the TRAAP evaluation.

Madeline Stanteen

B

Bergen, Benjamin. "Go ahead, curse in front of your kids". *LA Times*. 18 Sep, 2016. Web.

Summary: In this source, which is an article from the LA Times, the author has a very relaxed view of the effects of profanity on children. The author is talking from his own perspective as a parent and says that before his child was born, he used profanity all of the time, but once his child was born, at least for a while, he stopped because he thought that it would impact his child. However, since, he has realized that the use of profanity does not negatively affect the future behavior of children, and he even argues that the use of profanity may even be beneficial to the development of children because you can tell them in what context the word can be used and socially acceptable and when it cannot. According to the author, the only profane words that have been scientifically proven to have a negative effect of children as they grow up is racial slurs and things related to them because it does not breed tolerance, but contempt. So, in the author's opinion, profanity should be used around children, so that they can be taught what is appropriate where and what is not.

TRAAP: This article was published in 2016 which makes it quite timely, and this also makes the material written apply to modern society. This article is relevant to the topic because it gives another viewpoint to if there are any effects on youth when profane words or content is displayed at an early age. The information presented can help the reader of the prospective research paper to see some reasons why the age limit for profane material should not be changed. The author of the article is a professor of Cognitive Science at the University of California San Diego, so that makes the things said have some relevance to them and make one believe that they are accurate. This makes the article itself seem accurate, so it can be used. Again, the author is a professor with a vast number of degrees in the field of cognitive science, so his authority has been earned through all of his credentials. It appears that the author has no other purpose to write this article except to express how he feels on the subject, so, although it may be biased to his point of view, it is not biased based on him being paid or given some sort of benefits for influencing people. He simply wants to share his opinion on the effects of profanity on children and he is entitled to whatever opinion it is he chooses. This does

not, however, mean that the article is not useful because all articles are published with some sort of opinion behind them. (Mason Coleman)

Brown, Jane D., et al. "Sexy Media Matter: Exposure to Sexual Content in Music, Movies, Television, and Magazines Predicts Black and White Adolescents' Sexual Behavior." *American Academy of Pediatrics*. Vol. 117, No. 4, April 01, 2006. pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/117/4/1018..info, 10.1542/peds.2005-1406.

This article outlines an in-home extended survey taken by 1017 white and black adolescents, all of which attended one of 14 middle schools in the North Carolina area. Each adolescent was conferenced with at 12 to 14 years of age. Each teen was then reviewed a second time 2 years later through the use of a audio computer-assisted self-interview (SMD) to safeguard personal privacy. A different procedure was used to calculate each adolescent's sexual media content consumption in every movie, magazine, music album, and television outlet the adolescent used on a regular basis. The survey found that Caucasian teens within the highest quintile for sexual media exposure of 12 to 14 years of age were 2.2 times more probable to have experienced sexual intercourse at ages 14 to 16 years old compared to teens that were in the bottom SMD quantity - even when several other pertinent components, such as minimum sexual behavior, were initiated. This correlation was not of statistical importance to black teens after gaining control over other elements that could be predicted, such as parental intervention and tolerance of sexual norms in peers. The survey numerically concluded that subjection to sexual material in popular forms of the media escalates white teenagers' sexual actions and spikes their risk for initiating sexual intercourse at a younger age. Black adolescents were more behaviorally affected by their parents' and friends' perspective of their sexual conduct versus what they were exposed to by the media.

This article was published in April of 2006, so timeliness is not an issue. The date of publication does not affect the accuracy of this source, as the issues present in the article are still of great importance today. The article is most certainly relevant and on topic with the research question. It's information about the survey taken would most definitely help answer whether or not the age limit should be changed on explicit content of the media for younger people. For accuracy, I would say this source is mostly on par, despite that it is not an extensive portrayal for all races and ethnicities. Although it glanced into the tendencies of white and black individuals, the effect sexual content of the media has on other minorities was not acknowledged. The individuals over the survey are not questionable in authority, as each of the authors are certified in their field and have either a PhD, an MPH, or an MA. The purpose of this source was to evaluate if subjection to sexual material in the mediums of music, magazines, movies, and television predicts sexual conduct in middle aged adolescents. The purpose of this article does not look to be persuasive in any way. In summary, the article passes the TRAAP evaluation.

Bethany Paul

Buckingham, David,Rebekah Willett, Julie Frechette. "Cyber-Censorship or Cyber Literacy? Envisioning Cyber Learning Through Media Education." *Digital Generations: Children, Young People, and New Media*, Routledge, 2006, pp. 149–170.

Chapter nine of Digital Generations focuses on shielding the youth from the internet. It talks about how Congress Passed the Children's Internet Protection Act. It requires for for federally funded facilities to adopt the internet safety policies. This chapter was about how the United States tried to protect the youth from things that they might gain access to. It explained different methods and ways that they tried to protect the youth. Some of the methods proof-of-age/shielding systems, commercial filtering software and databases, and testing content controls. They set age restrictions on certain things and required proof age before being allowed to access the content. It worked the same way fraud-screening technology worked. Merchants collected user information on websites they visited for instant verification. It allows sellers to block content or allow access to content. Other ways to protect the youth from things on the internet are private filtering software that parents could buy. The chapter also questioned the would any of these methods actually work. Could people easily get around the measures taken to protect the youth. How would these programs work and who would make sure that it works. Would it be monitored to make sure that no one could get around it.

Timelines is questionable with this source because it was made as internet use was still on the rise. The source was created in 2006 but around that time not everyone had internet access like how common it is today. The source is relevant because the question is should the age limit on access to profane content be changed. This source talks about the current age limit on certain content. The source says that is limits access to kids under the age of 13. The source was written based off of the Children's Internet Protection Act. The source was written also to question the act and does it really work or is easily bypassed. The author is challenging congress by questioning does the act they put in place really restrict the youth from certain content.

Andrew Coleman

C

Chirico, Rob. *Damn! A Cultural History of Swearing in Modern America* Australian Journal of Linguistics. Sep2015, Vol. 35 Issue 3, p288-290. 3p.

In the first chapter, What's in a Dirty Word, the author explains a controversy over two different phrases and that they have two significant differences. The two phrases are "kissing it"

and "eating it". They obviously have very different meanings and as stated in the chapter, these phrases were a good example of "*manipulation and exploitation of the context in which words were intentionally made to be confusing.*" The author talks about how certain French words that correlate to American words are more derogatory because of the way they use the word. Also, in the late 1950's and early 1960's, swearing in public was severely frowned upon and was even subject to a fine or imprisonment. Lenny Bruce was claimed to have altered the way we speak in public and was arrested half a dozen times as well as banned from several US cities. He often tested the limits of censorship and questioned the value of words in and of themselves. At one of Bruce's shows, he walked out and said a vulgar statement about his wonderful audience and was immediately arrested as well as banned then on from performing there. A crusade of freedom of speech came about after his six-month trial where he was sentenced to four months in a workhouse. This crusade was to prove his points and that it seemed as freedom of speech was fine as long as no one was offended by it. Bruce sought out truth and was always willing to say the unsayable and therefore influences many famous people today from his legacy. This chapter showed a lot about how much profanity and the world we live in has changed over the years. If someone were to go on stage at a show today and say a vulgar statement, the audience would probably laugh and no one would even think twice about it.

This source is not a credible source for the proposed research question because it does not meet the requirements for TRAPP. It does not give a credible source for what we are researching and getting information on. This source talks about how swearing has changed over time rather than the affect it has on our youth today. The timeliness aspect is not the best as it was published on December 1, 2014. A more recent source would be a much better choice and opportunity for relevant information. The relevance is definitely questionable as it does not directly relate to the topic. This is a very accurate and correct source as it gives good examples and simply states facts. It is not a biased source and doesn't not persuade the reader in any way. The authority is not the best with this source because Rob Chirico is a freelance writer and artist whose work and books deal a lot with food and cooking so I would not see him as a viable source for this topic. The purpose is not very clear throughout the first chapter and seems to be a satirical book that would be fit the TRAPP evaluation.

Neeley Williams

Coyne, Sarah M, et al. "A Helluva Read: Profanity in Adolescent Literature." *Mass Communication & Society*, vol. 69, issue 3, 2012, pp. 360-383. *EBSCOHOST*, 10.1080/15205436.2011.638431.

The authors begin by introducing the reader to responses from the public to explicit content and the frequency of vulgar language in the media today. This is used to highlight the way obscenities in literature are largely ignored. The authors then claim the study of profanity in adolescent novels is crucial due to the lack of content warnings in regards to literature in comparison to media outlets such as television, music, film, and games. To reinforce this statement, the author adds it is possible that print media may have an equivalent - if not stronger - impact on mental understanding over other popular media forms. The authors then mention that if an adolescent's potential for modeling risky behavior is heightened through what they are exposed to by the media, then the damaging effects this may have on a teenager through means of a

novel or book could be twice as detrimental. The authors calculated a numerical representation of profane language in 40 popular adolescent novels. The numbers showed that although multiple books held countless - some being quite explicit - illustrations of profanity, there were others that showed no signs of profanity at all. Particularly strong portrayals of obscene verbal content were persistent in novels directed towards older adolescents. Characters in these novels that carried out obscenities were usually of young age, appealing physique, and great wealth. Content warnings in regards to inappropriate material were not present in or on any of the 40 books. After their findings, the authors provide a short synopsis of their statistical findings and procedures as profanity type, age guidance, character analysis, author gender, and human are addressed. In the last section, the authors disclose their non biased approach towards the matter of warning labels on adolescent novels as a whole, and summarize the importance of future research pertaining to adolescent literature.

For timeliness, this article is nearly spot on. 2012 - the date it was published - is a fairly recent and up to par time frame, especially since the information the authors covered is still relevant today. However, relevance as a whole here is a tricky category. Would I say that this article pertains to the research question? Definitely; but the research question is looking for whether or not the age limit to profane material should be altered to suit today's generation. This article simply looks at the fact that a warning label on the material is entirely disregarded to begin with. At the same time, this asks us whether or not it is important to pay more attention to the ratings and guidance labels on popular modes of entertainment. The fact that there is no warning sticker or indication at all on adolescent novels (explicit ones in particular) surely speaks leaps and bounds for the mediums of digital amusement we busy ourselves with everyday. If zero guidance sticker on a potentially obscene novel does not say we should begin paying more attention to the ratings on vulgar content in general, then I am not sure what will. On to accuracy. I would not say the article presents any flaws in this category. The viewpoint presented in this article has not been looked at before from this angle by experts who research the effects of explicit material in adolescents. Not only is it very well written, but this article would not outrageously disagree with anyone else experienced in this particular field. The authors affiliated with this article are actively involved with several other studies having to do with teenagers, how they respond to vulgar content, and how violent material should be regulated to suit the healthy development of adolescents. Finally, the authors of this article is not deliberately searching to persuade the reader towards a particular viewpoint or perspective. One of the writers even mentions this near the very end of the article. Overall, this source passes the TRAAP evaluation.

Bethany Paul

Coyne, Sarah M. "Profanity in Media Associated With Attitudes and Behavior Regarding Profanity Use and Aggression." *Pediatrics*, vol. 128, no. 5, 17 Nov. 2011, doi:10.1542/peds.2011-1062d.

This is a scientific journal written by Sarah Coyne that details the results of a study done on 223 average middle schoolers ranging from ages 11-15. The researchers hypothesized that there would be an observable correlation between students who were heavily exposed to

profanity in media and the children who frequently cursed. Researchers also believed that students who cursed more would be more prone to aggressive behavior due to the exposure to violence in media. To prove their hypothesis, students were asked in the form of a survey how strongly they agree with different statements regarding profanity. For example they were asked how often they used profanity when talking to their friends in casual conversation. The students responded by rate their usage of profanity use on a scale from 1-5. Students where then asked how many hours week they spent watching television and rate the degree of aggression of their favorite shows. This way, Coyne and her fellow researchers hoped to fully understand the subjects of the experiment and obtain the most reliable data possible. The results of the experiment show that the hypothesis was overwhelmingly correct. The effects of profanity exposure through media lead to students believe that profanity was okay to use and they there for used it more frequently. Through this, they were also exposed to more violence in media that lead to physical aggression as well as just the use of profanity, as hypothesized. The journal includes a helpful diagram and a graph that helps explain the correlation between profanity in media and profanity in a child.

TRAAP

This journal passed the TRAAP evaluation with ease and seems to be a highly reliable source It was published in 2011 so it contains very up to date information. It was the first study to reveal that exposure to profanity in media is associated with harmful outcomes for adolescents. This source is very relevant to the topic because it tackles the key issue we will have to face in our research question using scientific data acquired by field research. If we want to know if the age limits should be more restrictive in media to protect children, it is essential to understand the extent in which children are actually affected by the media they engage with. This source comes from a very straight forward survey of middle school children. It thoroughly explains the reasoning behind the questions presented to the children and can be trusted as yielding an accurate outcome. The Quinn Foundation and the Family Studies Center at Brigham Young University were acknowledged as funding the project. The fact that this is a funded study that proved its hypothesis to be true is worrisome, but after looking into the foundations, there is no reason to believe that the survey could have been rigged in any type of way. The purpose of this journal was stated in its hypothesis. Researchers wanted to see how strong the correlation between media exposure to profanity and children who use profanity and express aggressive behavior really was. This source is both reliable and very useful to our class question.

Camryn Neal

Coyne, Sarah M, et al. “‘A Helluva Read’: Profanity in Adolescent Literature.” Academic Search Premier [EBSCO], 2012, Profanity AND Adolescents .

The author takes in depth view of profanity and adolescents in mass media, along with the various taboos associated with cursing. The article explores the various facets of mass media and the lack of censorship. Starting with the literature, youth literature has a trend of adding curse words as the age of the audience increases, especially among books marketed primarily to boys. Meanwhile media especially marketed for girls, has significantly less profanity, yet that trend has been turning around as the taboo of women cursing has become less of a taboo. The author cites several leading sources backing her claim that the profanity in younger content has increased through the years. Youth literature has effectively little to no content filter warning the reader or their parents, making the content very accessible to adolescents. Therefore, impacting the mindscape of the children at an earlier age than before seen. The author talks about the fact that American culture is cursing more and more as the years go on. This increasing trend has steamed from the lack of censorship within the media. While there are several censors in place to ensure the younger generation is protected, the spontaneous nature of humans does manage to slip a profanity or two into media on a daily basis. The author recognizes this, citing several times in mass media where this has occurred especially with in the popular comedy "Saturday Night Live." The author also notes, that profanity has two categories, humorous and non-humorous. The point of humorous is to elicit a laugh, while non-humorous is intended to convey emotions particularly anger. The author takes into account the taboo of children cursing to their parents, noting that while profanity in adolescent literature is higher, the profanity is usually between peer groups and not directly said to older characters in the story. The author attributes the lack of censorship to the believe that adolescents don't read.

The above article does pass the TRAAP evolution, by virtue of the time of publication which is 2012. The article has remained relevant through the six years since the publication. The authority of the authors cannot be questioned due to all the contributing authors being professors of their chosen field of study and teaching at prestigious universities such as Brigham Young University. However, there is a sense of bias against less censorship. The authors agree with other major studies of the same topic. Not only do the authors agree with other studies, they also cite them as sources to back their own research. The main purpose of the authors is to bring attention to the fact that adolescent literature is grossly overlooked when censorship is involved. Due to the stereotype of children not reading. If the main goal of the authors was realized, the agencies involved in the censorship of adolescent literature would be brought under a microscope as to why such language has been found in literature intended for children especially when all other types of media are more severely searched. The article does argue the case for more censorship when adolescents are involved. The source is credible due to the extensive research and lack of personal opinion by the authors. Steven J. Peacock

Profanity in Media Associated With Attitudes and Behavior Regarding Profanity Use and Aggression

Sarah M. Coyne, Laura A. Stockdale, David A. Nelson and Ashley Fraser

Pediatrics originally published online October 17, 2011;

This is an article about studying the relationship between the exposure to profanity in media and attitudinal and behavioral outcomes among adolescents. Exposure to high levels of profanity in media today are constantly acknowledged by parents, society, and the industry. However, there has not been a study to examine the relationship to show how it affects adolescents' behaviors directly. Authors Coyne, Stockdale, Nelson, and Fraser hypothesized that this exposure to profanity in media is directly related to beliefs and behavior regarding profanity and was indirectly related to aggressive behavior. They had a method which was to examine 223 adolescents (87 boys and 135 girls) attending a large Midwestern middle school where participants completed questionnaires examining their exposure to media, attitudes and behaviors, and aggressive behavior. Participants identified their 3 favorite television programs and video games; then they rated each of them with respect to the amount of profanity they contained. This allowed them to see how the hypothesized relationship affected these teens directly or indirectly and compare results between each person. The main hypothesis was confirmed when their results showed that there was in fact a positive association between exposure to profanity in many forms of media and beliefs on profanity, use of profanity, and physical or relational aggression. It was concluded that it would be in everyone's best interest that parents and policy-makers should consider the appropriateness and implications of adolescents' exposure to profanity in media.

The article, "Profanity in Media Associated With Attitudes and Behavior Regarding Profanity Use and Aggression" was published in 2011 by authors Coyne, Stockdale, Nelson, and Fraser. The timeliness of this article would be acceptable for TRAPP since it is only 7 years old. The information regarding this article is very up to date with society today and is still very relevant with our research topic. It is directly related to what we are talking about because of its study about the relationship between profanity in media and the effects it has on adolescents. The authors each have a PhD, BS, or MS degree and each gave an unbiased approach as their sole purpose was to create a study and obtain accurate and informative information. The purpose of this article was to determine if profanity in media had a direct relationship with attitudinal and behavioral aggression in those 223 adolescents. This article effectively passes the requirements for a TRAPP evaluation.

Neeley Williams

Coyne, Sarah M., et al. "Profanity in Media Associated With Attitudes and Behavior Regarding Profanity Use and Aggression." *Pediatrics*, Vol. 128, Issue 5, November 2011, pp. 867-872. EBSCO, 10.1542/peds.2011-1062.

The authors begin by acknowledging that profanity in mass media is a concern amongst numerous adults and researchers. The authors briefly address that there is a direct correlation

in adolescents between the vulnerability to profane dialogue and vulgar content from the media. The authors state that children and teenagers are most especially susceptible to these effects. Next, the authors elaborate on vulgar language in a professional setting or work environment, as it has been found to initiate hostile responses to demands and orders. The usage of explicit words in relation to personality type and the manner in which younger crowds process emotion on a regular basis is also mentioned. After the topics of behavior tendencies and negative responses associated with profanity are covered, the authors delve into their hypothesis. The authors claimed before their study began that subjection to profanity in the media would be secondarily related to aggressive reactions and promptly result in conduct concerning vulgar language. The relationship between exposure to explicit conditions and behavior was observed at a middle school in the Midwestern region. 223 adolescents were filled out questionnaires concerning their actions or perspective about explicit language, how it is used, and aggression related to profanity. The conclusion reaffirmed the authors' hypothesis. Viewpoints towards explicit language were strongly affiliated with the correspondence of profanity from the media and aggressive behavior or vulgar content. The uniqueness of this particular study is addressed in the last paragraph and several times throughout the article.

This source passes the TRAAP evaluation for each category. For timeliness, the findings of this study were posted in 2011, so its publication date is fairly recent and up to date. While the study does not ask the identical question I am researching, the article's data directly relates to the research question, most especially in aspects of content that is not censored for young people. The manner in which profanity effects aggression in teenagers would help to answer whether or not the age limit should be altered on explicit content. As far as accuracy is concerned, the results of the study are scientifically documented, while also strongly agreeing with other related studies about similar topics. The most information I could gather from authority involve the investigation of whether or not the authors were experienced in their field. I found that each of the authors for this article and study are actively involved in other childhood and teenage research projects or studies having to do with media and its behavioral effect on emotional development. The purpose of this article is not meant to convince or persuade the audience towards a particular viewpoint. The goal is simply to educate the reader on the

findings of a study having to do with adolescents and the media. The only way I could see this study biasing someone would be if the reader began to judge all media content in a negative light for teenagers. Even then, the results this study portrays are scientific in nature. Whether or not an article changes personal stance is up to whoever is reading it.

Bethany Paul

Coyne, Sarah M., et al. "Profanity in Media Associated With Attitudes and Behavior Regarding Profanity Use and Aggression." *Pediatrics*, American Academy of Pediatrics, 1 Nov. 2011, pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/128/5/867.

The author, Sarah Coyne, among others, begins this study by stating what the point of it is and what the hypothesis is. The point of the study that is outlined at the beginning of the source is to research whether or not there is a link between exposure to profanity and behavior regarding profanity use and attitudes regarding profanity, as well as finding a link to aggressive behavior. The authors' hypothesis was that exposure to profanity would be directly related to behavior regarding profanity and indirectly to aggressive behavior. The authors go on for several paragraphs to set up the main idea that profanity and behavior are link by doing several things. The current rating system is called into question as well as pointing out the lack of research on this given topic. After setting up the study with the previous information, the actual study is presented. The authors included 223 middle school students from a large Midwestern school with a mean age at about twelve and a half years old. The study included several categories where the children were given options to choose in relation to how often something occurs in their own life such as profanity use and profanity exposure. The results proved the hypothesis correct in that the children that admitted to having high exposure to profanity where in turn, more aggressive and more accepting of profanity. After analyzing the study, the authors go on to discuss these results and assert their collective opinion on the matter. The authors make note that these study results provide the necessary evidence that ratings for television programs and movies are important and should be closely followed. However, they also recognize that this was one study done with one group of children and that to be recognized as credible, it should be tested several more times.

The timeliness of this source is strong as that it was accepted as an article to enhance this website in 2011 which was very recent in relation to other studies. The relevance of this article is exactly what we are looking for to address our specific research question. It talks directly about children and the influence that profanity in the media has on such a young age group. This study provides a scientific source to our pool of sources. The accuracy of this source is questionable. In the article itself, the authors admit that there is not any other research like this out there, so that also means there is not much to back the findings of this study. The source is simply a research study that was done because of a lack of research in that area. Therefore, it is only one study and cannot be backed up by much. The authority of this source is also

questionable. Not much is given about the authors on the website and after researching them individually, I was only able to find that most are college professors. Again, they could be very credible but based on what the source provides, there is nothing that notates them in any way. The purpose of this study is very strong. As state in the article, the sole purpose of this study was to fill a gap in research concerning this topic. The authors felt that this was a topic that needed to be addressed but wasn't already being addressed. There is also a footnote that says that there were no financial relations to this study. Overall, I believe that this source passes the TRAAP evaluation in that it provides information that is necessary to our research.

Madeline Stanteen

Cressman, Dale. "SWEARING IN THE CINEMA An analysis of profanity in US teen-oriented movies, 1980–2006". *Journal of Children and Media*, Vol. 3, No. 2, 2009, <http://academic.csuohio.edu/kneuendorf/c63310/ArticlesFromClassMembers/Diane.pdf>

Summary: In the source, the authors talk about how prevalent profanity has become in today's society. They do this by citing a poll that said that three quarters of people surveyed said that they have heard profane language more than they used to in the past. They also said that youth use profanity ninety percent more than they used to. They attribute the rise to the media, such as movies, music and television. This source seems to give a very neutral, scientific look into the effects and rise of profanity over the last few decades.

TRAAP: This study was released in 2009 which makes it somewhat timely. Usually, the study being around ten years old would be somewhat of an issue, but since the issue of profanity usage has not changed too much in that period of time, it is timely. This information is relevant because it gives an almost entirely unbiased view and study of how profanity has changed over the years. This pertains to our question because this gives the reader of the prospective essay a look into what the use of profanity does to youth. The information provided is accurate because it came from research by an university, and the studies that they pulled from were all scholarly articles also. Again, this information is from a university study, so the authority of those writing it is about as high as it can be. This article is extraordinarily unbiased, so the only purpose behind writing this is to show the public how the use of profanity has evolved over time, and this is useful because it can show that hearing profane things seems to increase the odds of children using it. (Mason Coleman)

Cressman, Dale. "Swearing in the Cinema: An analysis of profanity in US teen-oriented movies, 1980–2006". *Journal of Children and Media*, Vol. 3, No. 2, 2009,

<http://academic.csuohio.edu/kneuendorf/c63310/ArticlesFromClassMembers/Diane.pdf>

Authors Cressman, Callister, Robinson, and Near study a recent poll that Americans are hearing and using more profanity than ever before. They discovered that profanity has become more prevalent in today's society; adolescent's use of swear words has increased over the past ten years with the average teen using approximately ninety words a day. This rise of this much profanity is attributed to mass media, such as television, music, and movies. The media has a

dominant influence on American culture and this article is a good representation of how much our world is affected by it daily. The idea of Cultivation theory is presented which suggests that heavy exposure to media messages will shape one's view of reality. The authors also talk about the psychological and social uses of profanity. Much of the academic literature examines swearing as a "socially constructed linguistic practice". Swear words gain legitimacy or taboo status through the way society reacts to them. They cite a study where someone studies why someone swears and he discovered that swearing is 'never chaotic, meaningless, or random behavior but it's rather powerful and rule-governed'. This article circles around many corners of profanity, the effects of it, and how society reacts to it. It cites effective and informative studies regarding profanity and its effects on different subjects.

TRAPP: This article was released in 2009 so it could be considered relatively timely. It is less than 10 years and the article is a great source for the subject of profanity. It is very relevant and gives the reader a good idea of what profanity does to youth, media, and society. Someone could easily take this article and write a well-rounded essay with the information given in this source. It is also accurate because it cites scholarly studies and provides research from a university. The authors are very well educated from universities and have good credibility from the research they have conducted. Its purpose is to show the evolution of profanity and how it has increased over time. It also shows how it affects media and adolescents in society today.

Neeley Williams

D

dlvory, Adrienne Holz and Christine E. Kaestle. "The Effects of Profanity in Violent Video Games on Players' Hostile Expectations, Aggressive Thoughts and Feelings, and Other Responses." *Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media*, vol. 57, no. 2, Apr. 2013, pp. 224-241. EBSCOhost, doi:10.1080/08838151.2013.787078.

This article addresses research done on how profanity can affect individuals. The article starts off defining what aggression is and the many forms it can take place. This definition establishes how profanity can give rise to these forms of aggression.

Researchers state how profanity in video games can cause an increase in aggressive thoughts, behaviors, and actions. However the article also addresses the opposite view that researchers have towards this issue. They believe that results on video games and research is mixed or not credible enough to make a conclusion. Multiple scientists go on to discuss a scientific theory known as GAM to illustrate profanity's influence.

Essentially, human aggression can come from situational and personal mediums that can influence decision making and behavior. The article however does state the lack of evidence as to how profanity can lead to physical violence. There is more research that needs to be done, but verbal aggression does seem to arise from profanity. As such, the article goes on to discuss experiments and further questions that can be used for further research.

As it was published in 2013, the timeliness of the article is definitely credible to the TRAAP method. The relevance is apparent due to the issue that is presented in this article. The article addresses profanities effects through use of video games. The authority can be questionable due to writers of said articles. While they write from an unbiased perspective, information on their credentials is seems to be unknown. However, due to the multiple researchers that are cited the accuracy of the article is credible. Especially due to the fact that the scientists' facts are backed up by another scientist. The article's purpose is mainly to give facts and research to profanity use in video games. There is however, a need for more evidence and the article constantly says that more research needs to be done. That being said I do not believe that the article passes the TRAAP method some lack of information. Due lack of credentials found and needing of more evidence, another article could be more beneficial.

Daniel Hall

E

F

FOSTER, D. (2016). A Course on Cursing. *National Review*, 68(23), 35-37.

Daniel Foster begins his review of the book *In Praise of Profanity* by saying that Michael Adams' assessment that how profane content is perceived is often very inconsistent is very plausible. Foster then proceeds to break down the very idea of what makes something profane in today's culture. At one point he even draws attention to the fact that many swear words in the English language tend to be short monosyllabic words that often end in hard consonants, hence the whole idea behind the four letter word stereotype. The article also takes note of the unusually large impact that profanity has on the human brain, alluding to a study that showed that patients who suffered nearly a complete loss of their language skills were still able to retain more than one profane word. The entire review is both an analytical breakdown of profanity in modern American culture as well as a sarcastic criticism of the system that determines whether or not a certain word or phrase should be considered profane. In fact one of the first things that Foster does in the review is show that separating the words douche and bag stops it from being considered to be profane or offensive, even though the intent was clearly malicious.

Overall, this source passes the TRAAP evaluation and should be recognized as a helpful source. It was written and published in 2016 so it is still quite recent and all of the info presented is still quite up to date. As for relevance, while it does not focus very much on the effect that profanity has on children, it does still give us insight on exactly what profanity is and why it is considered profane. The things that are said in the review are all accurate and also quite insightful on both our culture and the human psyche. The author, Daniel Foster, is a writer for the *National Review* magazine, so his credibility is quite solid. The overall purpose of the source is to give an insight into exactly what profanity is, and why we, as humans, are drawn to it.

Daniel Brister

G

Givens, Beth. "Children in Cyberspace: A Resource Guide." *Human Rights*, vol. 26, no. 1, Winter99, p. 13. EBSCOhost.

“Children in Cyberspace: A Resource Guide”:

“Children in Cyberspace: A Resource Guide” is written by Beth Givens who published this article in 1999. The author discusses how the internet is a form of mass media with unlimited resources for adolescents to access at any time. At any given point teens can look up any topics that they are interested in and receive results that they are interested in within seconds. While this is a beneficial tool to have access to any given information within a short amount of time; it also creates concern for some parents and teachers to the amount of information children have within their reach. The internet is a tool, and how one uses this tool can either harm or benefit them. The internet is not to blame for the content it has access to, it is user who makes the decision on what influences them. However, that is not to say that teens should be let go into the real world without guidelines or restrictions on the material in the web. Ms. Givens claims that the internet has content that can manipulate the younger generation into believing or buying into material that is both harmful and damaging to their developmental image of the real world. For example, porn, profanity, stereotyping, and/or controversial political topics can have damaging material that hinder a child’s mind.

The author also talks about how television is another mass media that affects the lives of adolescents. Children often cannot differentiate between cartoon characters and people in the real world. The cartoon characters become real to the children, they come up with names for these characters. Marketers knowing this, marketers will pitch their ideas that will capture children’s eyes not adults. For example, marketers will use colors, sound, and figures that children can easily identify with and be captivated by.

Some ways parents are protecting their children is through setting up internet blockers, so that their children cannot access certain content on the web. Internet blockers can be set up on any home computer. These internet blockers have been effectively proven to keep children safe from inappropriate content.

The article “Children in Cyberspace: A Resource Guide” was written in 1999 by Beth Givens. Nineteen years have passed since the release of this article therefore it does not meet the requirements of Timeliness. While this source is great to look at and find background information on the research topic for the class; it is not a source that should be quoted in a research journal. “Children in Cyberspace: A Resource Guide” is a good starting point for gaining knowledge of how mass media affects adolescents; it also is a good source to see how mass media has evolved over the last 19 years.

Some parts of the article “Children in Cyberspace: A Resource Guide” relates to the research topic. For example, when the article talks about how teens are easily swayed by the material thrown their way is an important fact that the class research journal needs to have specified. However, the source goes on to talk about prevention measures to take to help children not have access to certain websites. The author goes on talking about how parents can set up internet blocks for their children, so certain websites that they do not approve of are

unavailable for their children to have access to. While this information is useful knowledge it does not pertain to the research question.

The source does not have a bias or unbiased approach to whether or not children should have unlimited access to the internet. The source is object and states the concerns of what parents and teachers have.

Beth Givens is the founder of Privacy Rights Clearinghouse which deals with consumer rights issues. Her experience would give her a unbiased approach to the research topic because her main goal is to protect the rights of individuals privacy.

The author is gives a straightforward object approach to informing the readers of the dangers of letting children have unlimited access to the internet. The author is also trying to inform parents that there is internet blockers that one can set up to block children from certain websites that they do not approve of. The only people who stand to lose something are children who want unrestricted access to the world wide web.

Jordan Ball

Gosselt, Jordy F., et al. "Effects of Media Ratings on Children and Adolescents: A Litmus Test of the Forbidden Fruit Effect." *Journal of Communication*, Blackwell Publishing Ltd, 13 Mar. 2012, onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1460-2466.2011.01597.x/abstract.

Should the age limits on access to profane content be changed? There is different opinions on this topic. Some believe when today's youth have access to certain content it effects them. Some places have age restrictions on certain content already. The age limit is there to protect them from the content because it is believed to affect the youth negatively. It is believed to make the youth develop violent and undesirable behavior along with bad habits. The Article tells that there is different research showing that kids who have access to certain content with profane language and violence often develop violent behaviors. In the netherlands it is illegal to sell content with a certain rating and profane and violent content. Should everyplace make it illegal for children to have content with violence and profanity. Even if laws were in place on profane content for kids how would it be enforced? This content is still available in different places. How will the age restriction work for games, social media, and every other place that the content can be accessed. In the article it is stated that the age restrictions should be from eight to seventeen.

Timeliness is questionable with this source because it was created six years ago when internet use was starting to peak. The source was created in good timing for new trends but new trends

are appearing in the youth and what content they see. The source is relevant because the question is about putting an age limit on certain content . The article says that when the youth has access to certain content they develop violent and undesirable behaviors. The article agrees with the evidence they found saying that an age limit should be on certain content. The text clearly argues for age restrictions by providing evidence from other sources what happens when the youth is introduced to certain content.

Andrew coleman

H

Hoffmeister, Peter Brown. "Should We Censor What Teens Read?" *The Huffington Post*, TheHuffingtonPost.com, 9 June 2016, www.huffingtonpost.com/peter-brown-hoffmeister/should-we-censor-what-tee_b_10355550.html.

The article outlines a conversation held between the author, who is a high school english teacher and another teacher, discussing the book "The Glass Castle". The conversation focuses around the idea of should there be censorship for teen literature. The author points out three main arguments in favor of censorship of youth literature. We need to protect young people, teenagers can't handle gritty material, teens won't understand what's going on if the material is too complex. These three points are as the author claims is the core of the opposition's argument. He then proceeds to debunk each of these points. First he looks into the argument, "We need to protect young people," by stating from his experience of high school students and the shows they watch on T.V. by comparison of what is considered unfit to read, the material that is available to watch is utterly vulgar. The author then moves on to the second point, "teenagers can't handle gritty material." the author maintains his argument, using as an example the book "Mosquitoland," using the amazon prime reviews to back his claim of the public opinion being such books which contain adult themes to be too gritty. Finally the author concludes his argument with the last point, "teens won't understand what's going on if the material is too complex." Hoffmeister gives the example of his daughter, how in two years of public schooling she had only read one half of a nove. After hearing this disturbing news, he proceeded to pull her out of school to homeschool and therefore broaden her academic horizon. He states teens are young adults, they need the exposure to complex themes. Once again relying on his background of a teacher, he points out that there is nothing too vulgar in books that is not also happening in a high school.

This article does pass the TRAPP evaluation with timeliness the article was published in 2016. The article is relevant to the research question due to the fact the article discusses several different angles of the subject about content restriction. The source is credible within this field, due to the background of being a high school english teacher, along with being a published author. The author's main goal in writing this article is too bring attention to the censorship of teen literature and express what he considers to be too much censorship. Using his daughter and his own writing career, to showcase these. However, the author does express strong bias towards less censorship and therefore should not be used as a main source. Steven J. Peacock

Hughes, Thomas. "Who will protect press freedom now? | Thomas Hughes." *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 30 Nov. 2017, www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/nov/30/press-freedom-censorship-news-journalism.

The Guardian is a news and journalism platform where trustworthy journalists write their opinions and ideas about relevant problems. The article starts out explaining how the digital age has transformed journalism. Hughes explains how these days, instead of having to go through the processes of buying a newspaper to read about the latest new, a person can simply turn on the television or look on their phone to stay connected. This gives journalist more power than ever to reach the masses. The problem, Hughes argues, is that many governments are regulating the internet and therefore violating the people's right to free press. Violence and profanity are often censored on the internet to some degree by certain governments. Also if a government sees something they believe to be inaccurate, they may take away access to it. Hughes acknowledges that this has many positive implications. For example it can stop an internet troll from scaring millions of people into thinking that the world will end in 8 hours. Hughes points out that the problem with this is the government can abuse its power by taking things off the internet that go against their agendas. He then explains how the desire to spread truth has often gotten reporters from many countries into trouble. In many cases reporters have been physically abused in order to silence them. Hughes wraps up the article with a plea to protect journalists from censorship and physical harm. This source offers a look at the negatives associated with censorship. While widespread censorship would be a good fix, it is important that we as a class attack the question from multiple angles and consider the idea that maybe censorship is not the answer.

TRAAP

Although this article is very relevant and interesting, it struggles to prove itself as a valid source worthy of passing the TRAAP test. This source is very new, written in November of 2017, therefore time is not an issue. The source is indirectly relevant to our question. While it does not address profanity in great detail, it does tackle the question of censorship from a unique angle. It will give the class an idea of why government censorship might not be the best answer and will redirect our focus to finding better ways to solve the issue. The source is accurate for our purposes because it represents a real person's opinion on censorship that might be different that will provide us with a different perspective to look at the problem from. Authorship is shaky because Thomas Hughes is the director of Article 19. Article 19 fights for protection and promotion of freedom of press and information worldwide. The purpose of this article is to plea for protection for journalists to practice their right to free speech. The fact that Hughes is so involved in the issue, proves that he both knows alot about the subject and is also trying to persuade us to lean on way or the other. All things considered, the persuasive and passionate tone of the article

ultimately renders this article inadequate as a valid source. It can still be used as a way for the class to broaden the horizons of their thoughts towards the question.

Camryn Neal

I

J

Janschewitz, Timothy Jay and Kristin. "The Science of Swearing." *Association for Psychological Science*, June 2012, www.psychologicalscience.org/observer/the-science-of-swearing.

Swearing and its effect on the youth. What problem does swearing cause for the youth. How does it affect them if it effects them at all. The article talks about how some people believe that swearing has a negative impact on the youth. While others do not think that swearing really has an affect on the youth. The article states that swearing can have a positive or negative outcome. In the it says 10,000 events where swearing was used it rarely had a negative outcome and it never lead to physical violence among youth. Parents try to stop their children from seeing or use profane language but they can not stop them from seeing it or hearing it because of how widely profanity is used. An age limit on content that uses profane language will not stop kids from using, hearing, or seeing it anywhere else. What would putting an age limit on that content really do if they will find the language some other place.

The Article was created in 2012 the time it was created does not affect its accuracy or credibility. The source is directly related but it does not ask the same question. The article ask questions that correlate with our question. The article ask is swearing harmful and does it affect the youth. The article ask questions that can influence the question to our question whether or not swearing causes problems for the youth. The source goes against most of the information in other articles and saying that swearing does not really affect the youth and that swearing can have a positive or negative times.

Andrew Coleman

Johnson, Chandra(2014, August 20). *Kids and swear words: Can profanity in media hurt?* *The Washington Times*

The article primarily revolves around research conducted by psychologist Timothy Jay. The article begins with Jay telling a story about how his grandchild said an expletive while in the car

with him. According to Jay, newborns begin picking up on language and words as soon as they exit the womb. This includes profanity, so when a parent uses profanity around an infant, they pick up on it. This gives them the foundation for learning language on their own. This trait continues into childhood. Therefore whenever a child hears a swear word on television or in a movie, it has an impact. The article then explains how profanity in film has increased since *Gone with the Wind* uttered the first swear word in film in 1939 to *The Wolf of Wall Street* had 798 swear words in 2013 by a approximately five hundred percent. Another study by Jay conducted in 2010 also found that kids are beginning to swear earlier than in previous years. Some people are concerned that this could possibly lead to a societal breakdown due to this lack of proper maturation by young people. The article also discusses the connection between whether or not swear words being taboo have a possible influence on why this whole thing is such a big deal. A study was done to examine the difference in stress levels people felt when a swear word was uttered versus when a euphemism was uttered i.e. hell or heck. People generally felt more uncomfortable when the profane was uttered. The article concludes by saying that it is important for parents to take more firm action at home. It also raises the point that the profane are merely words, and that it cannot truly be determined whether or not a word can actually be harmful to an individual.

Overall, this article has proven itself to be a solid source. In terms of Timeliness, the article was published in 2014, so all of the information that is present in the article is sufficiently fresh and up to date. For Relevance, the article pertains to our research topic very well, and even adds some extra information about how young people pick up and process profanity. For Authority, the author of the article is merely a journalist for the Washington Times, however the main source of the actual data in the article comes from Timothy Jay, who is one of the most respected people in the field of studying the effects of profanity. In terms of Accuracy, all of the data presented in the article comes from established studies so the accuracy is guaranteed. For Purpose, the article was written asking a very similar question to our own, what is the effect of profanity on young people. Overall, this article passes the TRAAP evaluation and can be used by us in the future.

Daniel Brister

K

Kundanis, Rose M. *Children, Teens, Families, and Mass Media: the Millennial Generation*. L. Erlbaum, 2003.

Children, Teens, Families, and Mass Media

Ch. 2 “Developing Child and Teen”

Children, Teens, Families, and Mass Media is written by Rose M. Kundanis. The author discuss in “Developing Child and Teen” the different mental development stages of a child’s life. The author also explains how children perceive mass media and how they interpret the message of the media. Children and adults have different views of mass media because mass media is ever changing and is different to every generation. For example, what people had access to in the 1960s is very different to what children have what today. Adolescents’ cognitive process takes

time for them to develop their perceptions of the material of mass media. The cognitive process of a teenager is enhanced by what they are interested in. A child will more quickly pick up material they are interested in than they will in a topic they are not. For boys, material is quicker processed by visual learning. Girls learn faster through auditory and comprehension. Formal features have changed over the years to appeal to their target audience. Formal Features are the style, tone, and context of a mass media. Formal features lead an audience to buy, pay attention to a product, and inform viewers. Comprehension of an adolescent depends on the age of that individual. Older children are able to identify formal features and differentiate what is real and fantasy better than younger children. Teens base their judgements on the real-life experiences that life has thrown their way. However, they will sometimes look to mass media to answer life questions if they do not have to life experience to answer the questions life has to hands them. The author claims that mass media can have two effects of children: it can stimulate their creativity, or it can stunt their growth in imagination. As a person goes through life their reaction of how much mass media affects them lessens as they grow up. A child will look to mass media as a means for creativity and at the end of a healthy teenager's stage of life they will be able to depict real life situations from media and make decisions on their own.

Annotated Bibliography

Children, Teens, Families, and Mass Media was written in 2003 by Rose M. Kundanis. The date of this source hurts the credibility of the information it gives because it is not the most recent study of how teens can be easily influenced. However, this source does give a researcher adequate amount of data to start off their research. Age of the document is a pretty important factor in the topic of should the age limits on the access of profane content be change. Mass media is ever-changing so, the source one uses for their research paper needs to be up to date with what impacts mass media has on society.

The source touches base on how teens are easily manipulated into believing into formal features that mass media broadcasts. Through this, one is lead to believe that since teens are easily swayed in what they believe profane content should be held back from them. The source shows the stages of life of a child and how much mass media effects their judgement on real life situations.

The source ties in scientific research that other experts have testified as truth. The source agrees with most sources in the field by stating that mass media does have an effect on children. The amount of impact that mass media has on a child depends on the child's age and gender. The impact of mass media depend on the development stage of a child's brain and the maturity they posses.

The author, Rose M. Kundanis, has been teaching at Keene State College for over 18 years in the Journalism department. Rose Kundanis therefore knows and deals with mass media almost everyday. The author's experience might be bias towards children since she works with mostly college or higher age men and women.

The author is hoping to inform her audience that the early stages of a child's life is heavily influenced by mass media, and most of their decisions are heavily based on how or what they perceive on television. If one was to take the side of the author the people who stand to lose are the young adolescents who want to expose themselves to profane content in mass media. The author does not pick a side on whether or not teens should be exposed to mass media, the source sticks to unbiased approach and informs readers to just facts.

Jordan Ball

Kaye, Barbara K. and Barry S. Sapolsky. "Watch Your Mouth! an Analysis of Profanity Uttered by Children on Prime--Time Television." *Mass Communication & Society*, vol. 7, no. 4, Fall2004, pp. 429-452. EBSCOhost, ezproxy.mc.edu:2048/login?url=<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ufh&AN=14696886&site=ehost-live>.

"Watch Your Mouth" provides information regarding the usage of profanity by child actors in television. The writers did a lot of research compiling plenty of statistics on the topic. Interestingly, the first time the F-word was aired on television was during a live showing of a children's show. It was let loose by a stumbling camera operation accidental, however often times this language is scripted. In our culture we have several taboos on who can use profanity and the entertainment uses those taboo's to their advantage. People are humored by children swearing and this humor is often aired for public entertainment. When a child sitting at home in front of the television see's someone their age speaking this way and getting the reactions they are, that child is more prone to use that language to get attention. This language then makes its way to the school house playground and then into another family's home. Age based ratings were put in place so that children would not be exposed to content too mature for their age. Those ratings are: TV-G, TV-PG, and TV-14. This suggest that a show rated TV-PG is unsuitable for younger children due to use of some profanity, violence, or sexual content. TV-14 would be less suitable for children, suggesting to only be viewed by children 14 years or older. Research done in 2001 gathered how many times different categories of profanity were used in programs of the various ratings. In the 7 major networks in 2001, mild profanity was used 368 times in TV-PG programs. TV-PG, again, is supposed to be suitable for children under the age of 14. So children in their prime growth age are hearing profanity at least once a day. One has to imagine this would create a habit of using this type of language.

"Watch Your Mouth" was published in 2004 putting it at 14 years old. The generation impacted by the information in their research are now adults which can actually provide some insight into how the exposure to such language affected the people during adolescence. Typically old data is outdated and irrelevant however in this instance that is not the case. The relevance of the source is source comes in comparing the usage of profanity of the generation affected in this text. Knowing the effects of profanity on children can help us better decide if there should be more regulation on the access to profane content by children. The information is very accurate giving detailed statistics gathered by actual research. It was written by a professor of journalism and electronic media as well as a professor of communications so the writers have authority on the subject. The purpose is purely informative. There was no political or monetary agenda backing the writing. This is pure research without bias. This source checks out and is credible to use

Zack Munger

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Levine, Madeline. "Adolescence: Ages 15, 16, 17, and 18." *Viewing violence: how media violence affects your child's and adolescent's development*. New York : Doubleday, 1996. MICAL, [mical.mc.edu/search?/Xa:\(Levine%2C+Madeline\)&SORT=D&l=eng&m=a&b=speed/Xa:\(Levine%2C+Madeline\)&SORT=D&l=eng&m=a&b=speed&SUBKEY=a%3A\(Levine%2C+Madeline\)/1%2C4%2C4%2CB/frareset&FF=Xa:\(Levine%2C+Madeline\)&SORT=D&l=eng&m=a&b=speed&3%2C3%2C](http://mical.mc.edu/search?/Xa:(Levine%2C+Madeline)&SORT=D&l=eng&m=a&b=speed/Xa:(Levine%2C+Madeline)&SORT=D&l=eng&m=a&b=speed&SUBKEY=a%3A(Levine%2C+Madeline)/1%2C4%2C4%2CB/frareset&FF=Xa:(Levine%2C+Madeline)&SORT=D&l=eng&m=a&b=speed&3%2C3%2C).

In chapter twelve of *Viewing Violence*, Levine first introduces the manner in which adolescents find their sense of self, and outlines the media's positive or negative influences on a teenager's developmental processes. To transition, the author goes on to point out that the luxuries of technology are doing more harm than good. The explicit content on millions of television screens desensitize young people to violent behavior. In result, Levine suggests the connection between media depictions of brutality and criminal acts in the real world grows stronger. The writer finds that aggressive strategies often used in films by leading male roles strongly reflect the despotic and emotionally repressive decisions made by political authorities of today. The industry is almost void of positive male role models that do not value extreme dominance and acute competitiveness. The movie making industry fails to acknowledge the unrealistic message tyrannical behavior sends to young boys searching to become men. Although the media uses challenging obstacles that appeal to younger audiences, the author states these do not provide the societal features required to help adolescents solve complex problems with real consequences. In addition to little regard for personal safety, Levine claims the media has omitted the tempestuous experience of young relationships. Raunchy images of today exacerbate the sexual pressures adolescents face to pursue physically intimate measures they are not emotionally prepared to handle. The psychological language couples use to communicate in movies and television series is largely ignored, as most romantic encounters are risqué or obscene with no consequences whatsoever. The careless circumstances presented to young crowds by the media leave them convinced there will be no resulting impact from the decisions they make in their own lives. The authors draws the chapter to a close by acknowledging that adolescents should be exposed to subjects that impact their everyday lives.

This source is altogether lacking in the timeliness category since the book I chose was published in 1996. However, since the topics covered in the chapter are still more than relevant issues in today's world and time, it would not be fair to render the material inadequate. For relevance, this source perfectly suits the research question. This book investigates the manner in which adolescents are impacted by negative influences of the media. Analyzing how the media affects the younger generation pertains to the age limit on profane content of the research question. Accuracy, like relevancy, passes. The source strongly agrees with other experts in the field of study regarding the media's influence on adolescents. On authority, the author of this source, Dr. Madeline Levine, holds a Ph.D. in psychology, an M.A. in education, a B.A. in English, and twenty-five years of teaching experience. In addition to her professional background, she has also raised three children, and uses several examples from her experience as a mother to validate behavioral characteristics popular amongst teenagers. The purpose of this source is to educate people (specifically parents) on the main developmental phases in which children and adolescents encounter their environment, and how the media impacts these encounters. Persuasive matters from this source are marginally concerning, especially since the author refers to many studies conducted on the effects - mostly negative ones - the media has on a developing child. This can only imply that the author strongly believes the media has a primarily damaging effect on adolescents. However, the suggested perspective does not blind the author's viewpoint to other less gloomy possibilities. Overall, this source does not pass the TRAAP evaluation due to its entirely outmoded publishing date and persuasive content.

Bethany Paul

Lopez, Michelle. *Swearing in Today's Society*.
<http://hornet.fullcoll.edu/swearing-in-todays-society/>

This article, *Swearing in Today's Society*, addresses the author's views towards profanity in this day of age. She makes it clear that she is not a fan of this behavior and is appalled on how worse it has gotten. Profanity is exposed to individuals in multiple different ways. They can be through movies, television, ads, newspapers, and many other mediums. The children of today's society more prone learning bad words along with their normal alphabet. The author goes on to explain our cultures acceptance to this type of behavior. Back in the day, men with be cautious of the language they would use around women. However, women have been shown to use this language just as much as men. The article argues a pro and con for the topic of swearing. Some experts state that swearing is an expressive form of language that has impact on a point that you are making. Others say that swearing just shows how unintelligent and ignorant someone is. This is made apparent due how many people use this type of language. The author references a study done by the Parent Television Council that addresses televisions' allowance of profanity. Apparently during the family hour usage of this language has increased 58 percent over the past two years. This councils proclaims that due this development morals are lost. One member even states that profanity is the language of aggression and can lead to violent acts. The article concludes with the author restating her early point and challenging the readers to think it over.

Despite the passion written in this article, I do not believe that this article passes the TRAAP method. The article does not give a reference to the time it was published, so the information stated can be super dated and possibly inaccurate. There is relevance due to the topic of our study and this information does give incite to the negative effects of profanity. The author does give any reference to her credentials so her knowledge on this subject can be called into question. It should be noted that the tone of the article seems to be written from a biased perspective. However, the author does gives sources that back up the points she makes within the article. Throughout the article, purpose seems be that profanity is terrible thing and should be blocked at all cost. While the purpose is clear it again shows and unhealthy biased that must be addressed. Ultimately while there is some truth this article, it should not be considered for further use on our topic.

Daniel Hall

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“Obscenity, Indecency & Profanity - FAQ.” Federal Communications Commission, 7 July 2017,

Regulations of Obscenity, Indecency, and Profanity

In the article “Obscenity, Indecency & Profanity - FAQ,” the author discusses three different types of levels of how secular content is rated and dealt with in the federal court system. The lowest level of these three is profanity. Profanity, is a classified as a public nuisance with offensive language. The second level is indecency which shows or refers to sexual organs in a sexual way. Lastly, the highest level of secular content rating is obscene content. This material does not meet the requirement of the 3-pronged test. Obscenity is strictly forbidden to be televised; indecency and profanity are allowed but only during certain hours of the day. The FCC (Federal Communication Commission) oversees the regulation of mass media content. The first amendment does not protect the right for mass media to broadcast any of the three-obscene material mentioned above. The FCC is allowed to take away licenses, hand out fines, or give warnings to any radio or television network that does not follow their regulations. The FCC still today is trying to find better ways to satisfy the public and their wants and views on secular material. For some people, using or broadcasting secular language does not bother them, in fact it upsets them that their First Amendment right pertaining to the freedom of speech is being embarked on. While the FCC sees their concerns, they cannot allow young adolescents to be exposed to such content or allow unwholesome talk be broadcast if it is not in the best interest for the majority of the public. To please both parties the FCC allows airways contain profane and indecent content to be aired between the hours of 10pm-6am. During those hours there is a low risk of children listening to any airways, so they cannot be exposed to any unwholesome content.

The website does not have a publishing date, however the information in the document is very beneficial to read. The article can be noted as trustworthy and credible because of the URL. The URL is .gov which means someone who holds a government job has researched and written the document. “Regulation of Obscenity, Indecency, and Profanity” breaks down what profanity is, and what is and not acceptable broadcasting on the airways. It goes into great detail about what the government does to protect young children from profanity. The source also talks about what the three different levels of secular content are. While the article does not enclose the author’s name, the data within the document can still be counted as accurate. In the article it talks about who oversees the content entering the airways, and what the consequences are if a

broadcasting network does not follow the set guidelines. The FCC (Federal Communications Commission) is in charge of keeping the airways clear of obscenity. The source is objective. The author sticks to defining what profane material is and how the government censors the material. "Regulation of Obscenity, Indecency, and Profanity" has an unbiased opinion on whether or not teens should have access to profane material. The main object of this article is to inform readers of what the government is doing now to protect young teens from obscenity.

Jordan Ball

Osgerby, Bill. *Youth Media*. Routledge, 2004. Routledge Introductions to Media and Communications. EBSCOhost, ezproxy.mc.edu:2048/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xna&AN=116966&site=ehost-live.

The first chapter of *Youth Media* describes a fashion industry known as Diesel's 55DSL. The line is credited to be a successful company due to their form of promotion. Through the use of a multi-faceted advertising campaign and promoting their merchandise in a brand new store, the company was successful in making sales. The owner's success demonstrates the influence media can have on individuals buying goods. This is important due to the clothing line being advertised to adolescent teens. This successful business also shows the competitiveness in the business world and necessary risk that must be taken to complete those goals. Media is shown to be used a strategic tactic in the business world to appeal to a certain demographic. In late 1900s companies started to focus more on products that would appeal to individuals with certain lifestyles and interests. Prior to this change, companies would advertise generic goods that can be applied to multiple demographic which resulted in sub-par sells. However, the author also gives sources as to how media is relevant to today's youth. According to U.S. researchers, adolescents ranging from eight to eighteen spend an average of seven hours participating in some form of media. This includes television, books, movies, and etc.... The author makes sure to reference that America's youth are not the only participating in media. Europe's adolescence have been reported to spend at least five hours participating in this outlet. This include children ranging from the age of six to seventeen. The books states how teens use sources of media to aid in their natural transition into adulthood. Psychologist G. Stanley Hall, draws to conclusion on how the youth want to emulate the type of people say see through the media. Thus there morals and future expectations are modeled after this view.

The book's publication occurred in 2004, so the timing of information should be taken with a grain of salt. However, the book's relevancy is clear due how media affects youth today. There can be television shows that have celebrities dressed in an appealing attire. The average teen who idolize that celebrity would try to emulate their style and will pay money to achieve that look. The author's authority is plausible due him being a professor in communications and

culture. He makes different references to media's influence on today's adolescence. The book's accuracy is true due to today's culture proving how media works. The purpose of my source, *Youth Media*, is show examples and references to media's importance to the culture of youth.

However, the source does pass the TRAAP method due to timing of the book's release.

Daniel Hall

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Saltzman, Joe. "Why Can't You Say--or Show--That on TV?." *USA Today Magazine*, vol. 132, no. 2708, May 2004, pg. 75

The author, Joe Saltzman, begins this article by asserting his observation that politicians are very keen to cling onto the buzzword of "indecent" when planning their campaign strategies. Instead of addressing the national deficit, he believes that they address how and when profane content is used in mass media and how it affects children. He goes on to assert that the f-word is a very popular word that is used by many Americans at a plethora of venues. However, it is very much a censored word when it comes to television. It's use in relation to children is even more astounding to the author. He gives examples of adult people who are so offended by it that they use children as an excuse to censor media and television so as to not sound silly by saying outright that they are offended. The author uses the example of the super bowl to parallel the censorship of nudity and the lack of censorship of gore and grit. Next, the topic of how to define indecent is looked at. He suggests that each person has a different opinion of what is decent and indecent and therefore, a single ruling cannot be made that includes all. The author believes that this topic is latched on to in a political arena because it provides a distraction from the "real" issues that need to be addressed. The main point of this article is to point out the wrongly placed necessity on the topic of censorship according to the author's opinion. He believes that there is no one way to define indecent and therefore the centralized approach is taken to distract the common people from the bigger problems facing the world.

The timeliness of this article is exactly what we are looking for. It was written in 2004, so it is not completely outdated, however, in relation to our question, it provides a look into how

censorship may have even been different fourteen years ago. The relevance of this article is strong because it specifically talks about censorship of mass media, specifically television, in relation to children. The accuracy of this article is questionable. It takes a very specific stance in saying that censorship is not really an issue, but rather, a distraction. This is not the stance that most people would probably take, considering the taboo of profanity in our society. The author also does not have much to back his opinion, so it is really just his opinion and nothing more. This article has good authority, as it was written by the Associate Dean of Journalism at the University of Southern California. The purpose of this article seems to be to present a controversial opinion. Whether this is to spark debate or not is unclear. After evaluating this source, I believe it passes the TRAAP evaluation. While it is a controversial, biased article, I believe it can be useful to us as we build evidence for both sides of our question.

Madeline Stanteen

Sigman, Aric. "What children need is censorship." The Guardian. 2008.
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2008/nov/11/internet-digitalmedia>.

Sigman brings a new light to the censorship argument. Like many, he agrees that kids need to have their content filtered, however, he does not think that swear words are necessarily the issue. Beyond the issue of swearing, children today now have access to the world at their fingertips. Previously, parents had direct control over all images and interactions their children had. Now kids can log onto social media or chat rooms and talk to whomever they would like, and it's harder to see who they're interacting with. This applies to videos and photos, too. Sigman brings up the issue of media outlets heavily editing their photos used in advertisements. Since kids are exposed to so much commercialism and adverts now, it can have dangerous effects like low self-esteem and eating disorders. Today's youth are more introverted than ever, even if the child is actually very friendly, because they are wanting to spend more and more time on the internet than with actual people.

I believe this article is a little outdated just because it references chat rooms and it does not include current dangers to children like what they are seeing on Youtube. Youtube has recently been hit because of their content not being kid-friendly. For example, the tide pod challenge, Logan Paul's suicide forest video, and mature videos under the guise of children shows have all been a hot topic recently as advertisers are pulling away from Youtube. However, the writer could easily take the ideas from this article and apply them to more recent issues, making it relevant. The article is accurate because this trend has been proven. Kids are more exposed to harsh media because parents are having a harder time monitoring what their kids are watching now that the internet is accessible on more than just computer monitors. Statistics and psychological studies can prove the point of the author. The author also has authority to speak on the topic because he is practiced in psychology and works with young children in schools, however, he does make clear that this particular piece is purely his opinion. The purpose for writing this article seems to be to warn parents about what their kids are

watching and being more aware of what they are exposing themselves to.

Emma Smothers

Steinberg, Brian. "Does Bleeping Profanity Make Any F-king Sense?" Academic Search Premier. AdAge, vol. 80, no. 14. 20 Apr 2009.

Brian Steinberg observes and analyzes the way television censors profanity in his article "Does Bleeping Profanity Make Any F-king Sense?" He elaborates on how different situations require more censoring than others. For example, shows that air earlier in the day will be heavily censored because younger viewers are likely to be awake and watching television. Cartoons and comedies are shown during this time because they do not require any censoring usually. Dramas, reality shows, and mature programs have more flexible rules on the other hand. There's a variety of reasons the FCC is more lenient with these programs. Firstly, dramas and reality shows will usually utilize profanity to make the characters seem more relatable and real. Profanity is backed by emotion that cannot be shown through other words typically, so, when a writer or reality star is showing intense anger, it is often encouraged to use profane language in order to get the raw emotion across. Some programs with profanity have been allowed to air at earlier times by censoring the foul language. The author uses the example of "Hell's Kitchen" as a show that gets by with using a lazy bleep to cover up an expletive. The problem here lies in the fact that it is quite easy to read lips and see what is actually being said. This leaves the question of whether censoring profanity is even worth the effort and if it is effective.

This article was written in 2009, so I think, while the timeliness is not the most up-to-date it could be, it is still current enough to address the issue at hand in a modern way and not be influenced by any ancient ideologies. This source is relevant to me as well because it touches on how effective and useful censorship of profanity on television actually is. The way our particular question is set up, I'm not sure there is a way for sources to be "inaccurate" because the divide in those who are pro-profanity and those pro-censorship is matched in supporters. The author, Brian Steinberg, is a TV editor and probably has a lot of knowledge on the way the FCC and big broadcasting companies see profane language, so I would say he has authority to speak on the topic. I believe the purpose of this article is to bring awareness to how little censoring curse words actually does for people because you can still easily tell what words are being said and those words are slipping into daytime television. Steinberg is trying to showcase how the rules are being bent in our time because of how lightly and frequently the language is used today in daily conversations.

Emma Smothers

I

"The changing definition of 'TV': What parents need to know about today's television

content.” *DeseretNews.com*, Deseret News, 11 Sept. 2014,
<https://www.deseretnews.com/article/865610732/The-changing-definition-of-TV-What-parents-need-to-know-about-todays-television-content.html>

The article begins by talking about how different television shows are scored differently on websites. The article itself is split into four subsections: current TV landscape, broadcast is changing, ratings and descriptors, and what parents can do. The article says that most parents think if it is on television then it must not be too bad for their kids to watch. Parents have found that they can no longer trust this mindset because television programs are not regulated like they used to be. Most television shows that are aired today have some kind of profane content in them. The Federal Communications Commission bans indecent content on six major television channels. Executive editor, Sierra Filucci, says there is definitely a shift in the profane content that is aired on television. She also says that most people could probably say they saw some form of profanity on television the day before, which tells us how regular this is used on today's television networks. We see in the article that any television produced after the year 2000 must include a chip in it so that parents can limit what their children watch, which would lessen their exposure to the indecent content. While this may not completely leave children blind to profane content, it can help them influence their peers to not take part in certain things since that is what they were taught. The article concludes saying the most effective thing would be to stay away from or else carefully monitor what is being watched by their children. This may mean limiting the use of internet accessible devices in the home.

This source passes the TRAAP evaluation. The timeliness of this article is very recent, 2014, which means it is ideal to use in our research. The relevance of this source is very relevant because it gives examples of how profane content is not regulated like it should be, therefore parents have to set precautions on the television to prevent their children from being negatively influenced by profanity. This source's author can be trusted because she published it on a new website, therefore it has to be factual before being released to the public. This article is very accurate because it is real life examples of what parents go through today. Parents are required to monitor what their children watch to ensure that they do not receive negative influences. The article tells us this and this is exactly how it is in real life. The purpose of this article is to reinforce and reinform parents and other television users that the FCC only regulates certain channels for profane content, therefore parents must monitor what their children see to decrease chances of using profanity themselves.

Brooke Ladner

Tropeano, Eliana. “Does Rap or Rock Music Provoke Violent Behavior?”. *Journal of Undergraduate Psychological Research*. Vol 1, Western Connecticut State University, 2006, p. 31-34. <http://library.wcsu.edu/dspace/bitstream/0/35/1/tropeano.pdf>

The article “Does Rap or Rock Music Provoke Violent Behavior?” by Eliana Tropeano is a study conducted by students and professors at Western Connecticut University. The study looks into the effect, or lack thereof, that music and music videos can have on a person’s behavior. Tropeano says that the experiment came to the conclusion that listening to violent music and watching violent music videos has an impact on aggression. The author says that the results were what was expected, which means that she sees it as common sense that things of this nature would have a negative effect on behavior. This article not only brings together all of the information that they gathered, but it also, in the introduction, brings in multiple different sources that all present information that agrees with their findings. Even though the study comes to the conclusion that rap and rock music do have a derogatory effect on people’s behavior, the author admits that the drastic difference seen in the results of the experiment is partially due to how different the two videos shown are. The author says this because when she conducted the experiment, she showed one group a vulgar music video by DMX and she showed the other no music video at all. The author says that as people were watching the vulgar videos, their moods visibly changed as the video progressed. Tropeano concludes by saying that future research should be conducted with some adjustments to get potentially more accurate results, but that, from what they found, watching profane videos increases aggression.

This source passes the TRAAP evaluation because it seems to meet all of the requirements to do so. The only concerning thing is about this source is that it was published in 2006. This makes it seem very old for a source, and it is, but the issues discussed in the source have not changed much over those twelve years. This source is also relevant to our question because it talks about how profanity in music impacts the behavior of people, which relates to whether or not the age limit to view this type of material should be altered. Due to the fact that this article was published by the Western Connecticut University in one of their research journals, it can be deemed accurate because if it was not it would have either been removed from the journal or never published in the first place. Again, the article was published by a university, so its authority cannot be understated. The purpose of the article is not to further any political or social agenda, but it was to conduct an experiment and publish its findings for the general public to have access to. The fact that there does not appear to be any motive behind the creation of this article makes it useful as a source. In conclusion, this source passes the TRAAP evaluation, with the only concern being the age of the source; however, since this specific problem has not escalated much over the last decade, this does not inhibit the source from passing.

(Mason Coleman)

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Vaughn, Stephen. *Freedom and entertainment: rating the movies in an age of new media*. Oxford University Press, 2006.

This book deals with the entertainment industry specifically the rating of movies. The author, Stephen Vaughn seeks to give readers insightful information on the criteria in which films are rated. The key message the author is hoping to convey in this book is that there is some obvious corruptions in hollywood especially when it comes to rating movies. The book speaks about the effects of profanity, sex, and violence while giving insight on into how the entertainment industry decides what the limits are on what young viewers should be exposed to. It details the criteria for choosing what words are profane enough to push the movie towards an R classification. The rules explained on page 30 say that when a movie uses the word f*** one time it will result in an R rating. This is good information for the classes argument because it helps us see what the world defines as severe profanity. It also begs the question that if hollywood thinks that profanity specifically the "f word" is bad enough that only 18 year olds need to be exposed to it in films, is it therefore bad enough to need to be censored in some way in all forms of media? Both content and age limits are discussed in this book so it also explains lesser known laws that guide the decision of rating a movie such as the Production Code, the code in which all films are rated based on. The later parts of the book explain how use research done by the American Psychological Association effects the ways movies are rated. The source overall provides valuable insider information on why things are currently censored as they are in regards to films.

TRAAP evaluation

Freedom and Entertainment fails the TRAAP test due to potential bias, but is still a useful source for our purposes. Timelessness is questionable for this book because it was written in 2006 about laws which, by nature, are subject to change. However, through cross referencing I could tell that the laws outlined in this book were still effective today. This is a relevant source because it gives exclusive insight into why films are censored as they are right now. When trying to decide if censorship should be changed, insider information is invaluable. Accuracy is hard to test because this source is not comparable to other sources. It comes from exclusive knowledge that can only be acquired by an insider of the film industry. The authorship of this book is unquestionably strong because Stephen Vaughn has received two Fulbright awards, proving himself to be a powerful researcher. The purpose of this book is to offer a behind the scenes look at motion picture rating. Vaughn writes in part based on the private papers of Richard Heffner, head of Classification of Rating Administration. The book in parts focuses on the corruption of the industry and when Vaughn gets information from Heffner, it has potential bias involved. This source as a whole ultimately fails the TRAAP evaluation because of its potential biases. The bias only ruins parts of the book that we will not be delving into for the class question so it is still a valuable source.

Camryn Neal

W

Swearing Habit

Whipple, Edwin P. "The Swearing Habit." *The North American Review*, vol. 140, no. 343, June 1885, pp. 536-539. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org. Accessed 29 January 2018.

The article begins by referencing another volume that had been published that talked about swearing from the beginning of time up until present day. Using this kind of profane language is a habit amongst all people from the lowest character to the highest. Whipple says that the use of these kinds of words come from emotion, specifically rage, but can quickly turn into extreme rage. He gives an example of a man walking and having a shocked amount of decency for himself due to the profane language that is being used all around him by different types of people. He continues to say that people use the worst

language when they are being hindered from something. They believe that use of sacrilegious language comes from the lack of expressing one's emotions. He says that from all of these different homes come children who know how to speak the language and use it very frequently in their normal conversations. They explain that the parents do not need to necessarily be religious to understand the wrong doing that they are bestowing upon their child and the actions that come from theirs as the parent. Children face conflicts every day and are in direct contact of them. They conclude this portion of the article saying that religious views and other objections view profane language as part of condemnation.

This article passes the TRAAP method. The timeliness of this article would not be ideal to be used for our research question since it is not from a recent time. This article is very relevant to our research question because, even though it is not talking about there being an age limit to profane content, it is talking about the effects of profane language on youth. The source is accurate because they are giving us examples of how youth hear the things being said around them and take it in and use it themselves. It has an affect on them because they do not know what the words mean, but they assume it is okay because it is used by their elders. The author is able to be trusted because it is published by a university and used specifically for scholars and researchers. The purpose of my source, *The Swearing Habit*, is to show that whether we realize it or not, the things we say affect those around us that may be looking up to us

Brooke Ladner

Wright, Travis. "*What if Your Cute Little Angel Starts to Say Dirty Little Words?*" 2010, January 28, 2018

Our children are learning to swear at a younger age. Timothy Jay, who is a psychology professor, considers this rise not surprising at all. In fact, the level of childhood profanity has been rising since the 80's. According to Jay, children typically begin to learn swear words, and how to use them, between the ages of three and four. As younger children, they are most likely just mimicking what they hear, and react to the way those around them respond to what they are saying. And as they go into pre-k and grade school, they are most likely doing it for a reaction, because they don't know it's bad, or because they are frustrated. They most likely heard it from the mouth of someone they admire, so they are trying to mimic that person, essentially to be "cool" like them. Since we often utter swears with a bit more gusto, these words are viewed as more important to some children. Emotionally charged words that get big reactions stick out like sore thumbs to young children. This is why the author claims that children seem to use profane language in the worst possible moments, such as at the grocery store, or in front of company. Prevention is the best strategy to keep children from using swear words. Even though our televisions, music, and quite honestly the majority of our culture is riddled with profane language, children are most likely to hear curse words at home and from their parents. Parents are often hypocritical when it comes to rules about swearing at home and within the family. While many parents often have strict rules about swearing, they themselves often let words fly. Parents should do what they can to keep their children from hearing profanities, and from saying

them themselves. Jay stresses that constructive guidance and healthy ways to let out frustration should be given.

This article fits Timeliness. The source was created recently, and therefore still holds relevance today. The source is also relevant. It talks about and discusses the start of swearing in children, as well as how to prevent your children from doing it. The source does address research questions that are being asked. The source also addresses an important aspect of the big question. The writer of the source also has good authority to be making their claims. The author is a psychology professor, who has also been practicing for years. He might be biased in the sense that he is pulling from a lot of experiences he has gone through with his clients and other studies over the years. The main purpose of the article is to explain why children use profane words and to provide basic guidelines to help parents try and prevent it.

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