

## **Thought Questions**

### **Aggression, Media Violence, Violent Pornography**

1. Is aggression innate? To what extent, if any, is aggression socially determined? In what ways is aggression socially determined?
  2. How do different theories explain aggressive behavior?
  3. Can aggression be studied in laboratory experiments? How? What are the benefits and limitations of such studies?
  4. Is it the sex, the violence, or the combination of sex and violence that contributes to subsequent aggressive behavior? Why?
  5. In what ways are portrayals of sexual violence different from portrayals of violence in a nonsexual context?
  6. More generally, what are the benefits and limitations of social science research on aggression?
  7. What are the public policy issues raised by attempts to regulate materials that feature sex, violence, or sex and violence together?
  8. How is social science research on this topic used? misinterpreted? overinterpreted? What do you need to know about research methods to make an informed decision about what the results of particular studies show?
  9. What about sexual violence and nonsexual violence portrayed in mainstream media other than violent pornography, such as music videos, video games, music lyrics, mainstream movies, advertisements, etc.?  
  
According to the theories, how may these materials affect us? What does research show?
  10. What are the pros and cons of censorship of media violence in general and violent pornography in particular?
  11. How well do educational interventions work?
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