

## EAL/ESL

### How factors out of our control (e.g. violence on TV) can affect the shaping of our identity

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#### Intention

I am going to write about how factors out of our control (e.g. violence on TV) can affect the shaping of our identity. My intended audience are young people who have the ability to make choices and form their identity as they wish. I am writing this piece in the form of an interview between myself and a professional media psychologist. I want young people to know the facts from a professional and that they have the ability to make choices and transform their lives. The interview would be suitable for publishing in magazines such as Seventeen and Girlfriend.

#### Professional Reveals Truth

Our interview guru, Leila, sat down with expert media psychologist, Jane Oslovn, to discuss why young people are negatively impacted by violence in mass media, TV and their family.

Leila: Hi Jane and welcome. First of all tell us a bit about yourself and your job.

Jane: Hello and thank you for inviting me. So I hold a doctorate in media psychology from fielding Graduate University. I have a passion for keeping children positive so that they become great individuals when they are older. I work at Media Psychology Research Centre and my crew experiments with the effects of violence on TV, the internet and in real life on our children's identity.

Leila: How old are the children under experiment?

Jane: Actually it's not just children but older people as well. The people we test our theories on, their age ranges from preschool age to adulthood. For example, we test effects of something on a group of teenagers and we sometimes bring teenagers back when they're adults to examine how their adult identity was affected.

Leila: Is it right to testing children?

Jane: Oh, yes. Yes. We get the children's permission, their parents', the councils' and the governments' permission. Our experiment don't affect the children physically, only their behaviour changes and that's what we see.

Leila: okay, so what are some of the results your crew has gathered so far and how did you get those results? How did the identity of the children change?

Jane: (laughs). That's a very broad question. I won't be able to answer for all the experiments we've done. One conclusion we came to is the fact that seeing violence in any form will make young people be aggressive in real life. They will use violence in real life.

Leila: How did you get there?

Jane: We collected 100 preschool aged children and divided them into four groups. One group was shown the repeated hammering of an inflated teddy bear. The second group was shown the same incident on TV. The third group was shown a cartoon version of the same scene while the fourth group was not shown anything. When all the kids were faced with a violent situation in real life the first three groups reacted aggressively and the last group didn't.

Leila: wow, so you're proving that people are what they see?

Jane: well not exactly but that is close to the reality. Also because children learn quickly that saying applies to them.

Leila: Well, hold on. What about people who are born into a family that is affecting them negatively?

Jane: In that case they need to seek people who can make them happy, find optimistic friends or family. Maybe they should see a school counsellor or some friendly neighbour who can help them. If the person is being abused at home, they need to see someone. Don't be a passive recipient to violence.

Leila: excellent, I will start quoting that statement "don't be passive recipients to violence'. Thank you for all the facts and details. I sure learnt a lot from you and hopefully so did our readers.

Jane: Pleasure, keep safe and be yourself. You can't control other but you can control yourself. Don't be pressured by others.

For more information, visit the Media Psychology Research Centre website on [www.MPRC.com.au](http://www.MPRC.com.au)