



Violence in Video Games

By: Lori McDonald
Elementary school teacher; Ed.D. in School Leadership/Administration

Pop Culture
Grades 6-8



Introduction

With the overwhelming popularity of video games that include violence, this can be a very polarizing topic that can make for some lively debate. In this lesson, students will debate the idea of violence in video games and argue their case in their writing.

Learning Objectives

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.1.A](#); Introduce claim(s), acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.

Materials Needed

- Video clips from violent video games (age-appropriate and censored for inappropriate content)
- Copy of rubric for each student

Procedure

1. Begin a discussion about whether or not the popularity of these types of games make people in our society today more violent. As students begin to take sides, put them into two different groups – 1) Yes, video games make people more violent; 2) No, video games do not affect the level of violence in our country today
2. After the students are in their groups, have them discuss reasons for their belief. Online research can even be conducted if time permits.
3. Students should then be given time to write an opinion piece independently on the topic using the following prompt:
 - Choose a statement:
 - Violent video games that are popular today contribute to violence in our society.
 - or
 - Violent video games that are popular today do not contribute to violence in our society.
4. This will be your thesis statement. Defend your argument with examples and evidence from your research and/or discussion.

Continued on page 2



Violence in Video Games

By: Lori McDonald
Elementary school teacher; Ed.D. in School Leadership/Administration

Pop Culture
Grades 6-8



Continued from page 1

Evaluation

After completing their writing, students can either complete a self-evaluation or exchange papers for a peer evaluation. Revisions should be made based on this evaluation and then submitted to the teacher for grading.

Categories	4	3	2	1
Sentences	8 or more complete sentences included.	6 or 7 complete sentences included.	4 or 5 complete sentences included.	3 or less complete sentences included.
Punctuation	All sentences end with correct punctuation.	Most sentences end with correct punctuation.	Some sentences end with correct punctuation.	Little or no sentences end with correct punctuation.
Capitalization	All sentences begin with a capital letter.	Most sentences begin with a capital letter.	Some sentences begin with a capital letter.	Little or no sentences begin with a capital letter.
Neatness	All words are neat and clearly written.	Most words are clearly written.	Some words are clearly written.	Illegible
Topic	All sentences are on-topic.	Most sentences are on-topic.	Some sentences are on-topic.	Little or no sentences are on-topic.