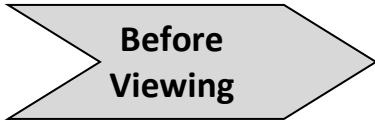




A documentary by Michael Moore (2002)



Why do you think the murder-rates are so much higher in the US than in Canada?

Child Poverty Rates:

A family of four is considered to be living below the poverty line if they earn less than a certain dollar amount per year – in BC this ranges from \$34,738 in a large city to \$22,724 in a rural area (2010).

How do you think BC compares with the rest of Canada?

- a) BC has the lowest percentage of children living below the poverty line.
- b) BC is right in the middle of the pack.
- c) BC has the highest percentage of children living below the poverty line.

Murder Rates in Canada:

Which province or territory do you think has the highest homicide, or murder, rates in Canada?

- a) Newfoundland & Labrador
- b) Prince Edward Island
- c) Nova Scotia
- d) New Brunswick
- e) Quebec
- f) Ontario
- g) Manitoba
- h) Saskatchewan
- i) Alberta
- j) British Columbia
- k) Yukon
- l) Northwest Territories
- m) Nunavut

Do you know anyone who owns a gun or rifle?

- a) I don't know anyone who owns a gun.
- b) I know one person who owns at least one gun.
- c) I know between 2-10 people who own at least one gun.
- d) I know 11 or more people who own at least one gun.

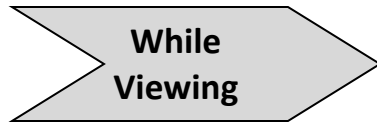
Do you and your family lock the front door of your house?

- a) All the time, even when we're home.
- b) Only when we're away from the house.
- c) Only at night.
- d) We never lock the front door of our house.

Choose **ONE** of the following questions to respond to:

- 1. What or who creates violent individuals?
- 2. What do you fear in our society, and why? What do you think causes your fears?
- 3. Where do you stand on gun ownership and control issues? Be specific.

Write at least **FOUR complete sentences**.



Comprehension Questions

The questions are asked in the same order as the answers are revealed during the film. You can answer the questions in point form with key words.

1. Where does Michael Moore get a gun at the beginning of the film? What does he have to do to get it? (2 marks)
2. Why did a dog shoot its owner in Michigan?
3. What would happen if a bullet cost \$5000?
4. Who says: "it's your job to defend your family and yourself?" (name the group)
5. Michael Moore uses **satire** throughout the film. Satire uses humour, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people, situations, or things. Its intent is to shame individuals, corporations, government or society itself into improvement.
How is the song choice "What a Wonderful World" an example of how Moore uses satire?
6. Where did the students buy the bullets for the massacre at Columbine high school?
7. Why did the public attack musician Marilyn Manson after the shootings?

8. Marilyn Manson talks about how Americans are manipulated. He says the idea behind this campaign is to keep everyone in _____ so that they will _____.
9. What did the two shooters do right before the Columbine massacre?
10. How many people die from gunshots in the United States each year?
11. How many guns are there in the 10 million Canadian households?
12. What is a possible reason for the excessive violence of the American people?
13. How old were the children in the youngest school shooting in US history?
14. By what percentage did gun sales rise after September 11th?
15. Why did Michael Moore ask Charlton Heston to apologize to the citizens of Flint, Michigan and Littleton, Colorado?



Causes of Violence?

Immediately following the Columbine shootings many commentators were keen to explore the link between screen violence and violence in society, particularly amongst children and teens.

A number of the speakers in the film suggest different causes for the amount of violence in American society. Some of them are listed below.

Task: Give each possible cause a number in terms of their order of importance. You may add one or two factors of your own if you wish.

Factor	Weighting 1=high 10=low
Poverty	
Parental neglect/abuse	
Personality of individual	
Social inequality	
Peer pressure	
Boredom	
Media violence	
Macho culture	
Racism	
Easy access to weapons	

I think that _____ is the MOST likely cause of violence in American society because _____

I think that _____ is the LEAST likely cause for violence in American society because _____

Bowling for Columbine

EXPOSITORY PARAGRAPH

GOAL: to write an organized, supported and error-free expository paragraph, summarizing Michael Moore's message(s) in the documentary *Bowling for Columbine*.



STEP 1

Consider what you think Michael Moore would like the viewer to understand/feel as a result of watching this film. Write your ideas here:

STEP 2

List some of the examples from the film that Moore uses to help you understand/feel what you wrote about above. List the examples here:

STEP 3

What might happen if people don't pay attention to/listen to what Michael Moore has to say in his film? Write your ideas here:

**STEP 4**

Take your ideas from Step One, and write a **TOPIC SENTENCE** for your paragraph (write it on the lined sheet provided).

Make sure your topic sentence:

- Has the title of the film (underlined)
- Has the director's name (Michael Moore)
- Is a complete sentence
- Focuses on what the message of the film

**STEP 5**

Use the examples you wrote down in Step Two to create a **BODY** for your paragraph.

Make sure your body sentences:

- Support (provide evidence for) your topic sentence
- Are complete sentences
- Are linked together with transition words

**STEP 6**

Take the ideas from Step Three and create a **CONCLUDING SENTENCE**. This should:

- Summarize what your paragraph explained
- Offers warning about what could happen if they don't listen to message of film
- Be a complete sentence
- Summarize what the film is about

**STEP 7**

Re-read your paragraph. Make sure that:

- Letters at beginning of sentences are capitalized
- All sentences are complete
- There are no run-on sentences (fix these by adding a period/conjunction)
- Spelling is correct- check with a friend/dictionary/me

Paragraph Criteria

	3 points	2 points	1 point
<p><u>Topic Sentence:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Gets reader's attention <input type="checkbox"/> Introduces main idea of paragraph <input type="checkbox"/> Complete sentence 	3 requirements met	2 requirements met	1 requirement met
<p><u>Supporting Details:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> At least 4 complete sentences <input type="checkbox"/> Each gives new details to support main idea <input type="checkbox"/> At least 3 transition words used 	3 requirements met	2 requirements met	1 requirement met
<p><u>Concluding Sentence:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Restates the topic sentence <input type="checkbox"/> Wraps up the ideas in the paragraph <input type="checkbox"/> Complete sentence 	3 requirements met	2 requirements met	1 requirement met
<p><u>Interesting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Holds reader's attention <input type="checkbox"/> Good details and facts used <input type="checkbox"/> Creates a clear picture in the reader's mind 	3 requirements met	2 requirements met	1 requirement met
Spelling, Grammar, Punctuation, Capitalization.	Correct throughout	1-3 errors	4 or more errors
<p><u>Additional Parts:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Title <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraph indented <input type="checkbox"/> Heading includes name and date 	3 requirements met	2 requirements met	1 requirement met

Total = _____/18