

***Wendt Character Initiative: A Joint Project with the Librarians, ENG 102
Faculty, and Writing Tutors***

The following research questions have been used in the past for this collaborative unit.
Bibliographies of articles are included. Articles and topics are updated each year.

Research question: When local television news programs report violent crime, do they reinforce negative stereotypes of African-Americans?

Introductory webpage:

“The Black image in the white mind.” YAAAMS: Young African-Americans Against Media Stereotypes. 15 May 2008 <<http://www.yaaams.org/editorials/articles/blackimage.php>>.

Class scholarly article:

Entman, Robert M. "Modern Racism and the Images of Blacks in Local Television News." Critical Studies in Mass Communication 7.4 (Dec. 1990): 332.

Small group scholarly articles:

Gilliam Jr., Franklin D., and Shanto Iyengar. "Prime suspects: The influence of local television news on the viewing public." American Journal of Political Science 44.3 (July 2000): 560.

Lipschultz, Jeremy H., and Michael L. Hilt. "Race and local television news crime coverage." Simile 3.4 (Nov. 2003).

Research question: Does playing violent video games increase aggression in college students?

Introductory articles:

Crompton, Janice. "Critics Take Aim at Video Games." Pittsburgh Post-Gazette 1 Feb. 2007. 15 May 2008 <<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/07032/758327-55.stm>>.

"Game Over?" Current Events 18 Feb. 2005: 3.

Class scholarly article:

Bartholow, Bruce D., and Craig A. Anderson. "Effects of Violent Video Games on Aggressive Behavior: Potential Sex Differences." Experimental Social Psychology 38 (2002): 283-90.

Small group scholarly articles:

Carnagey, Nicholas L., and Craig A. Anderson. "The Effects of Reward and Punishment in Violent Video Games on Aggressive Affect, Cognition, and Behavior." Psychological Science 16.11 (2005): 882-88.

Kirsh, Steven J., Paul V. Olczak, and Jeffrey R. W. Mounts. "Violent Video Games Induce an Affect Processing Bias." Media Psychology 7 (2005): 239-50.

Research question: Are negative campaign ads effective tools for getting candidates elected?

Introductory articles:

Gandelman, Joe. "Is Negative Campaigning Losing Its Positive Punch?" 28 February 2008. 15 May 2008 <<http://themoderatevoice.com/politics/young-voters/17969/is-negative-campaigning-losing-its-positive-punch/>>.

"Getting Dirty." Campaigns & Elections 27.5 (June 2006): 68-69.

Class scholarly article:

Niven, David. "A Field Experiment on the Effects of Negative Campaign Mail on Voter Turnout in a Municipal Election." Political Research Quarterly 59.2 (June 2006): 203-210.

Small group scholarly articles:

Sonner, Brenda S. "The Effectiveness of Negative Political Advertising: A Case Study." Journal of Advertising Research 38.6 (Nov. 1998): 37-42.

Meirick, Patrick C. "Political Knowledge and Sponsorship in Backlash from Party- and Candidate-sponsored Attacks." Communication Reports 18.2 (Summer 2005): 75-40.