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The Editor
Linden Standard
10 High Street
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Dear Sir

I am writing in response to the anonymous letter you published in the Linden Standard last week about the links between teenagers' violent behaviour and violence on TV and violent computer games.

This person is basing their opinion on stereotypes and newspaper headlines. They are assuming all teenagers are stupid and do not have the brains to figure out that what they see on TV isn't real.

It's easy to blame TV and computer games for violence on the streets, but there is no proven link between the two. Dr Guy Cumberbatch, an expert in media violence, says that research evidence on media violence causing harm to viewers is 'exaggerated and does not stand up to scrutiny'. In fact, computer gaming can be an outlet for aggression stopping teenagers from being violent in real life.

In my opinion, teenagers are more likely to learn violence through what they see on the street and the way they see grown ups behave than by watching it on the television or playing games on the computer. I also think teenage violence wouldn't happen as much if there was more for them to do like youth clubs, skate parks and other leisure activities. This view is shared by parents of children at St Ann's High School for Girls. 74% of parents I surveyed said that more free and low cost activities for teenagers would help reduce teenage crime a lot.

I suggest your reader needs to do some more research into this subject before giving their opinion.

Yours faithfully

Kathryn Hxxxxxx
Responsible teenager, age 15