

"We have been watching Bowling for Columbine, the film by Roger Moore. In the film his concern is answer the question: "Why are Americans so excessively violent?" He compares the U.S. to Germany, Australia; Great Britain; Japan; France; and Canada. Even though the U.S. has a much larger population – the number of homicides (11, 127) seems outrageous.

Those interviewed in the film and those in our class have offered the following reasons.

1. Marilyn Manson (Or: "violent" youth and rebellious subculture in America which advocates destruction/suicide/lack of respect for authority)
2. Breakup of the family unity (single parents; no nuclear family for home time; little communication between parents/teens)
3. Poor parenting skills (relaxed or missing standards of morals; too permissive; little effort in disciplining teens, no corporeal punishment, etc)
4. Violent United States history (image of the hard riding Western gunslinger who rides alone; kill alone; never shows remorse)
5. Satan (God punishing America for being so materialistic and immoral)
6. Graphic Violence in film and video games (scenes of mutilation; blood; dismemberment)
7. Drugs/Addiction (easy access to designer drugs)
8. Entitlement mentality (spoiled and ungrateful teens – raised to expect too much; unable to deal with postponing gratification)
9. Unemployment/Poverty (wide gap between wealthy and poor; billionaire celebrities and sports figures – minimum wage for others Breeds resentment and hostility)
10. Media driven –fear (Media going for the groin: "cheap shot" news bites aimed to provide a quick thrill and to stimulate fear and terror as entertainment. The "Cruel World" syndrome)
11. Poor handgun control (NRA power; Charlton Heston mentality)

Your essay question is this: ***"If Michael Moore were to approach you for an interview and ask you the same question, what is your response? Why are Americans so excessively violent???"***