

## Reflection Essay: CSI Effect on Media

## Experience

It is widely known that the popular television show CSI: Crime Scene Investigation has significantly affected American culture. However, the effect it has had on the media is less well-known. Before beginning research on this topic, I was aware of some ways CSI has changed the way the media reports on crime. For example, I knew that the show's popularity had led to an increase in the number of crime-related programs on television. I was also aware that CSI had popularized the use of forensic science in solving crimes. However, I was unaware of the extent to which these changes occurred.

## Findings

Through my research, I have learned that CSI has profoundly impacted the media. In terms of sheer numbers, there are now more crime-related shows on television than ever before. Moreover, thanks to CSI, these shows are better funded and have access to better resources than they did in the past. As a result, they can provide viewers with a more realistic portrayal of crime and its investigation. In addition, I have learned that forensic science in solving crimes is no longer limited to television; police departments across the country are now using it. Finally, I learned that CSI has impacted how news organizations cover crime stories. In particular, there has been an increase in the use of infographics and other visual aids to make complex information more accessible to viewers.

## Evaluation

Therefore, CSI has had a significant impact on the media. This impact can be seen in quantity and quality; there are more crime-related programs than ever before, and these programs are better funded and provide more realistic portrayals of crime than they did in the past. Additionally, the use of forensic science in solving crimes is no longer limited to television; police departments across the country are now using it. Finally, news organizations have also begun to change how they cover crime stories, using infographics and other visual aids to better inform viewers about complex topics such as forensics.

The selection of the "CSI effect on media" topic was made due to the observed impact that the show has had on viewers. It was interesting to explore how a television program can shape public perception and change how crime is reported in the media. The results showed that the "CSI effect" is accurate and has significantly impacted how crime is depicted in both news and entertainment media. This study provides valuable insights into the power of television and its ability to influence public opinion.

The article by Cole and Dioso-Villa (2008) discusses how the media has impacted criminal law. The article states that the "CSI effect" has led to a "litigation crisis." This is because jurors now place a greater emphasis on forensic evidence in their deliberations. The article also discusses how the media has affected police officers, prosecutors, victims, and witnesses. It is important to note that the CSI effect is not just limited to jurors. The article states, "While the CSI effect is not a proven phenomenon, there is some evidence that it may exist." A study of 254 jury-eligible adults by Podlas (2005) found that those who had watched more CSI were likelier to think that DNA evidence was essential to solving a crime and that fingerprints were not as necessary. The study also found that CSI viewers were likelier to think that interrogations should be aggressive and that defendants should always have a lawyer present during questioning. The CSI effect is a theory of media influence on lay understandings of law. It posits that exposure to crime dramas like CSI can lead people to misconceptions about the legal system and the criminal justice process. The effect is named for the popular TV show CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, which is known for its vivid and dramatized portrayal of forensic science. While the CSI effect is not a proven phenomenon, there is some evidence that it may exist. A study of 254 jury-eligible adults found that those who had watched more CSI were likelier to think that DNA evidence was essential to solving a crime and that fingerprints were

not as necessary. The study by Sharma and colleagues (2019) also found that "CSI viewers were more likely to think that interrogations should be conducted in a confrontational manner and that defendants should always have a lawyer present during questioning." Accordingly, the study also found that CSI viewers were likelier to think that interrogations should be aggressive and that defendants should always have a lawyer present during questioning. While the findings of this study are not definitive, they suggest that the CSI effect may be a natural phenomenon with potential consequences for the criminal justice system.

I have grown as a writer since I started this paper. I am more confident in researching and writing about complex topics. I have also become more critical of my work and am more likely to revise and edit my essays multiple times. I am grateful for the opportunities I have had to improve my writing skills, and I look forward to continuing to grow as a writer. Moreover, I feel more confident in completing a writing assignment. This is because I have had opportunities to improve my writing skills through practice and feedback from my Writing Tutor and peers.

Apart from that, my feelings about writing assignments have changed because I have learned that I enjoy writing more when it is for a specific purpose. Earlier in my academic career, I would write to satisfy the assignment requirements. However, now I try to find a personal connection to the topic or subject matter to produce a better product. Additionally, I have come to appreciate the editing and revision process as a way to improve my work.

Furthermore, I learned my mistakes from writing tutor visits and professor feedback. In particular, I learned how to improve my grammar, punctuation, and overall writing style. I also learned how to structure my essays more effectively and make my arguments more persuasive. I have highlighted my writing strengths in this essay. In particular, I am confident in my ability to research and write about complex topics. I am also critical of my work and am more likely to

revise and edit my essays multiple times. I appreciate the opportunities I have had to improve my writing skills, and I look forward to continuing to grow as a writer.

Creating my topics and using critical thinking/research to alter existing ones would be much more fun. It would be a great way to learn more about the topics I am interested in and share my findings with others. Although, I am apprehensive about writing assignments in other courses. I worry that I will not be able to produce a quality product because I have a different experience and practice with those assignments. Still, I have learned my strengths and weaknesses as a writer, and I am confident I can produce a good piece of writing in a shorter time.

Many students wonder what the point of academic writing is. After all, once they graduate, they will never have to write another research paper. Wrong. The skills students learn through academic writing are essential for success in many professions. For example, lawyers must be able to research cases and write complex briefs. Medical doctors must be able to read and understand scientific journals to keep up with the latest research. Even business professionals must be able to write clear and concise reports. In short, academic writing is not just for college students; it is for anyone who wants to be successful in a professional career. So, the next time you struggle with a research paper, remember that you are preparing for a bright future.

### References

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