

ENFORCING CENSORSHIP

Everyone agrees that one of the government's main duties is to (0) protect its citizens. However, what happens when this is done via censorship? There is no doubt that children need to be (1) _____ from obscene or violent material in movies and on TV. There are some people who would (2) _____, however, that no grown-up has the (3) _____ to tell another grown-up what she or he can read or watch.

(4) _____ countries do not allow violent or offensive material to be shown on TV until (5) _____ at night. There is a special sign at the (6) _____ of movies, which indicates whether or not they are suitable for (7) _____ children. Other films or dramas start with a warning that they may be suitable for older children (8) _____. This gives parents a choice of whether to allow their children to watch them or not. Films (9) _____ in movie theaters may contain violent or offensive scenes, in which case children under a certain (10) _____ are not allowed in.

In the US, a non-government body known as The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) closely controls all films shown in movie theaters, on cable TV, and recently some streaming platforms such as Netflix. The MPAA was (11) _____ up in 1922 by the film industry itself in response to the waves of criticism aimed at American movies, with the goal to restore a movie favorable public image for the motion picture industry. Since then, the films and videos are examined and rated as to what age (12) _____ they are suitable for. In some (13) _____, they may decide to ban a film or video altogether, especially if it contains scenes that may be offensive to others.