



Name _____

Date _____

THE V CHIP

One of the newest things in television technology is the V chip. The idea behind the V chip is to protect children from violence on television, but is that really what it does?

This sounds like a good plan, but just like most new ideas, there are many things that still need to be considered. Television producers don't like the V chip because they feel like they are being monitored and censored. Whose responsibility is it to monitor what can be shown on television or not?

There are many questions associated with this issue. For example, who decides the definition of violence? Does the government have the right to decide this? Do the parents? Do the broadcasting companies? What happens if people can't agree? The V chip is only successful with standards for what is considered violent and what is not.

Opponents also say that they don't think the V chip or other such forms of monitoring and censoring will be effective. Kids know more about technology and how it works than their parents do. Will they know how to reprogram a television just as soon as they set it up with the V chip?

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of the V chip?
 - a. to allow free television minutes
 - b. to protect children from seeing violence on television
 - c. to reprogram the television to work with VCR
 - d. a program designed for the government to monitor television shows
2. What is the key question associated with implementing the V chip?

3. What is the main idea of paragraph two?
 - a. to explain the concerns parents have about violence on television
 - b. to explain the benefits of implementing the V chip
 - c. to explain the benefits of television producers monitoring shows
 - d. to explain the questions and issues related to the V chip
4. Which of the following is not one of the reasons opponents do not like the V chip?
 - a. Kids know more about technology, the V chip, and how it works than their parents do.
 - b. They don't think the V chip or other such forms of monitoring and censoring will be effective.
 - c. They feel that children will be able to override the V chip.
 - d. They don't feel it's the government's right to monitor or censor programs.