

“Trash T.V. Belongs in the Garbage”

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Grade 12

I'm sorry but if I have to sit through one more reality television show, I'm either going to sue my cable provider for cruel and unusual punishment or worse actually resort to reading books as a form of entertainment. When did it become socially acceptable to parade uneducated nitwits who don't possess the common sense enough not to showcase their personal lives on primetime TV? Oooo look at me I can't parent my own kids, I can't get my teenage daughter to stop using, I don't have a real life so I'm going to shack up with fifteen other complete strangers for the next three months, while cameras document my every move in an attempt to exploit my privacy for short-lived fame and prize money. By all means, let's create a show where narcissistic simpletons have the nerve to look straight into the camera and question why they weren't chosen to be Paris's new bbf or Tila Tequila's new boyfriend or girlfriend, all the while manufacturing tears in order to solicit some type of emotional response. Have we as a society sunk that low as to actually classify this drivel (by which I really mean c**p) as entertainment. If it were one or two networks that broadcasted reality programs then maybe I wouldn't be writing this article but when every major television channel from ABC to MTV is airing this (see above mentioned word) something must be done.

The question still remains why do we tune in seven nights a week? Perhaps as appalling as it may sound, watching someone else's life go horribly awry week after week makes ours seem better by comparison. For every survivor contestant that gets voted off or every housemate that gets evicted we may begin to feel better about ourselves. Don't get me wrong, there are some reality shows that are worthy of their timeslots, yet it's the monotonous, on going filth clouding up our television screens, that I seem to have a problem with. I'm sure most of you are thinking by now, why doesn't he (me – the writer) just change the channel. I could do that however (and yes there's always a however) I shouldn't be forced into making that decision. Why must those of us who don't enjoy watching backstabbing floozy vying it out for reality show supremacy be sentenced to an existence of excessive channel flipping? What begins to irritate people is that these so-called reality programs are often scripted. Yes I said it - reality shows are FAKE. That's the genius of it all. These shows are real enough not to actually pay their participants a substantial amount but fake enough not to hire real actors. So you end up getting talentless hacks who feel it's their duty to air their personal grievances to people who don't pretty much care anyways.

In the end they're just shows, purposeless in content but yet hypnotic in their appeal. That is the horrible thing about them – I can't change the channel!

