

Youth Violence and the breakdown of the family

I believe there are several contributing factors to youth violence, making it a complicated and unpleasant problem to deal with without finding a common link behind this phenomenon. Through my own experience, I have concluded that the most fundamental underlying component inciting youth violence is the breakdown of the family. I believe other factors commonly attributed to youth violence such as poverty, drug and alcohol abuse, violence in the home, and involvement with gangs, are also often linked with the breakdown of the family.

In an effort to provide support for my theory, I would like to share my experience growing up in a divorced family. Fear and confusion as my parents fought, are feelings and memories from a very young age yet still very vivid in my mind. One incident that occurred when I was six years old stands out in my mind as particularly frightening. Although I don't recall what instigated the fight, I do recall the immense feeling of fear I felt as my father struck my mother. I cried and begged my parents to stop fighting with no success. The violence culminated with my father threatening my mother with a gun as he left our house. Soon after my parents separated and divorced.

Although growing up I was happier when my parents were divorced than when they were married, as I reflect back on my teen years, I can see how the detrimental effects of not living in a stable two parent family affected me. I believe the lack of a stable protective family was the determining factor in my negative, violent behaviour as a teen. I lacked a good role model. Fortunately, I was caught in time.

(Extract from a report written by a female American university student. Adapted)

1.- Based on the ideas of the text, answer the following questions using your own words as far as possible. (25 words max.) (2 points)

- a) - What does the writer say happened in her home when she was six years old?
- b) - Was the writer herself a difficult teenager? If so, what did she not have as a young girl that really affected her?

2.- Say whether the following sentences are TRUE or FALSE according to the text. Copy the evidence from the text. No marks will be given without the evidence. (1 point)

- a) - The writer thinks that the breakdown of the family is the only cause of youth violence.
- b) - Fortunately, now she hardly remembers anything from her early years at home.

3.- Choose ONLY THREE of the following words and write a synonym (=), an opposite (≠), a definition or a sentence to show that you understand their meaning in the text. Use your own words. (1.5 points)

- a) - gangs
- b) - linked
- c) - vivid
- d) - culminated
- e) - detrimental
- f) - behaviour

4.- Write down three grammatically correct and meaningful sentences by matching both columns. ONLY THREE of them are correct. (1.5 points)

On some occasions we must take a minute or two's	where she could feel tenderness and love.
Unless don't hurry	rest to recover our breath after witnessing a violent fight.
Sometimes everybody finds it difficult to know	you'll be late for the marriage wedding.
What the girl in the story needed was a place	to what or to whom attribute our violent reactions.

5.- Write a composition of about 100 words on ONE of the following topics. (4 points)

- a) - Describe the ideal family.
- b) - Is ours a violent society? Why? In what ways?

1.- Based on the ideas of the text, answer the following questions using your own words as far as possible. (25 words max.) (2 points)

a) - What does the writer say happened in her home when she was six years old?

She says there was a fight between her father and her mother. She was very frightened and asked them not to fight anymore but they didn't listen to her. Her father became so furious that, before leaving the house, threatened her mother with a gun.

b) - Was the writer herself a difficult teenager? If so, what did she not have as a young girl that really affected her?

Yes, she was a difficult teenager. She thinks her parents didn't really protect her. There was no stability at home and she was never brought up in a proper way.

2.- Say whether the following sentences are TRUE or FALSE according to the text. Copy the evidence from the text. No marks will be given without the evidence. (1 point)

a) - The writer thinks that the breakdown of the family is the only cause of youth violence.

FALSE: I believe there are several contributing factors to youth violence.

b) - Fortunately, now she hardly remembers anything from her early years at home.

FALSE: Fear and confusion are feelings and memories from a very young age yet still very vivid in my mind.

I do recall the immense feeling of fear....

3.- Choose ONLY THREE of the following words and write a synonym (=), an opposite (≠), a definition or a sentence to show that you understand their meaning in the text. Use your own words. (1.5 points)

a) - gangs = groups of youngsters. Organised groups of people (esp. for illegal purposes.)

b) - linked = connected, associated.

c) - vivid = clear, bright. ≠ vague, obscure

d) - culminated = ended, finished ≠ started

e) - detrimental = harmful, negative. ≠ harmless

f) - behaviour = way of acting or conducting oneself

4.- Write down three grammatically correct and meaningful sentences by matching both columns. ONLY THREE of them are correct. (1.5 points)

On some occasions we must take a minute or two's rest to recover our breath after witnessing a violent fight.

Sometimes everybody finds it difficult to know to what or to whom attribute our violent reactions.

What the girl in the story needed was a place where she could feel tenderness and love.



PRUEBAS DE ACCESO A LA UNIVERSIDAD L.O.G.S.E.

LENGUA EXTRANJERA : I N G L É S

Battle of the Basques

Political inertia combines with disunity among Spain's national and regional security forces to fail in their fight against the terrorist group ETA.

Few citizens in Europe ought to feel safer than the 2 million that live in Spain's northern Basque country. They have four separate forces looking after them: local police, regional police, national police, plus the militarised corps known as the Guardia Civil. However, despite a proportion of about one member of these forces for every 135 citizens, the region is one of the most violent places to live in Europe. The reason is the separatist group ETA and the disunity among the various forces that fight against it.

ETA has killed about 800 people and injured more in shootings and bombings over the past three decades. It also contributes to what Spanish forces call "light terrorism" – youth groups destroying property and throwing Molotov cocktails.

Some of the 8,000 members of the Spanish National Police and the Guardia Civil have been able to infiltrate ETA terrorist teams, discover its arms channels and intercept vehicles carrying explosives. They also work closely with French police to prevent the terrorists from having the refuge they enjoyed in the past. But frustrated members of the Guardia Civil have accused the 7,000-member autonomous Basque police, the Ertzaintza, of the failure to seriously weaken ETA. They claim that the regional police is too strictly controlled by the Basque Nationalist Party, The PNV, now in power. The reason? The PNV believes there is no military or police solution to the conflict and wants to negotiate with the separatists' political wing, Euskal Herritarrok.

Adapted from **TIME EUROPE, June 2000**, by Martin C. Arostegui.

1.- Based on the ideas of the text, answer the following questions using your own words as far as possible. (25 words max.) (2 points)

- a) - Why should the Basque country be a safe place? Then, why is it so violent and dangerous?
- b) - In what ways, according to the author, have the police or Guardia Civil been successful in fighting against ETA?

2.- Say whether the following sentences are TRUE or FALSE according to the text. Copy the evidence from the text. No marks will be given without the evidence. (1 point)

- a) - ETA terrorists can always escape to our northern neighbour country when they are in difficulties.
- b) - ETA began its activities before 1975.

3.- Choose ONLY THREE of the following words and write a synonym (=), an opposite (≠) a definition or a sentence to show that you understand their meaning in the text. Use your own words. (1.5 points)

- a) - region
- b) - violent
- c) - fight
- d) - to prevent
- e) - frustrated
- f) - conflict

4.- Write down three grammatically correct and meaningful sentences by matching both columns. ONLY THREE of them are correct. (1.5 points)+

I don't think it is normal for a civilised country	he would be escorting an important political.
The police says this time next week	should be reached as soon as possible.
No wonder some Basques dream	to settle disputes this way.
Many citizens believe that an agreement	of running away to a desert island.

5.- Write a composition of about 100 words on ONE of the following topics. (4 points)

- a) – Causes and/or consequences of terrorism.
- b) – An ideal place to live.

1.- Based on the ideas of the text, answer the following questions using your own words as far as possible. (25 words max.) (2 points)

- a) - Why should the Basque country be a safe place? Then, why is it so violent and dangerous?

It should be a safe place because there are lots of policemen from different forces looking after them. However, it is a dangerous place because ETA terrorists are always around and those who are supposed to fight against them do not work together. They seem to serve different political interests.

- b) - In what ways, according to the author, have the police or Guardia Civil been successful in fighting against ETA?

They have been able to join terrorists cells, they have found out where they hide their weapons and have stopped cars carrying bombs and other explosives.

2.- Say whether the following sentences are TRUE or FALSE according to the text. Copy the evidence from the text. No marks will be given without the evidence. (1 point)

- a) - ETA terrorists can always escape to our northern neighbour country when they are in difficulties.

FALSE: ... to prevent the terrorists from having the refuge they enjoyed in the past.

- b) - ETA began its activities before 1975.

TRUE: ETA has killed over the last three decades.

3.- Choose ONLY THREE of the following words and write a synonym (=), an opposite () a definition or a sentence to show that you understand their meaning in the text. Use your own words. (1.5 points)

- a) - region = part of the country
b) - violent = aggressive, hard, tough ≠ peaceful, quiet
c) - fight = battle, struggle, contend, combat
d) - to prevent = stop, make impossible or difficult, frustrate, block, ...
e) - frustrated = disappointed, irritated, angry, ...
f) - conflict = problem, fight, dispute ≠ agreement

4.- Write down three grammatically correct and meaningful sentences by matching both columns. ONLY THREE of them are correct. (1.5 points)+

I don't think it is normal for a civilised country to settle disputes this way.

No wonder many Basques dream of running away to a desert island.

Many citizens believe that an agreement should be reached as soon as possible.