

Can you think of a better way to spend a cold winter evening with your family than curled up together around the TV watching the "Sound of Music?" This certainly seems like a way to enhance family harmony and viewing TV together is far more fun than viewing alone. There are many programs that create conversation, discussion and even debate. A close-knit family can spend hours discussing why lion's practice infanticide. A recently first-time televised fact of the animals lifestyle broadcast on The Discovery Channels "Animal Planet." So we can see that if parents and children cooperate and view television with care, the affects on family harmony can be positive. said "All it takes to create a positive atmosphere in the realm of television is good, positive programming." And certainly this would be wonderful if parents would take responsibility and actually create this kind of atmosphere. Television can create positive family harmony if intelligent thought and planning are implemented. Television, when used properly can stimulate thought and conversation within the family unit. According to Bob Hodge and David Tripp from Stanford University, "Television is not time out from thinking, as so many fear: it provides grist for the mills of thought, innumerable opportunities for normal cognitive growth."⁸

Sadly however, the majority of parents today are so busy thinking about their careers and money, the only milling of

⁸ Bob Hodge and David Tripp, Children and Television (Stanford California: Stanford University Press, 1986) 92.