Television and the Family Circle

**Question 1**

During the past, families used to get around the fireplace and tell each other stories, whereby this used to be the focal point of family time. After the introduction of the television set, the fireplace was the first shared area or substance to be removed. Since the fireplace was in the living room area, the television sets were first placed there. Over time, these sets have been placed in the kitchen, where the piano used to be, in basements where married men use it for sports and personal use in the case of family men, and in the family room. The televisions replaced many features in homes, including designs that have been changed to accommodate the placement of television sets at home.

As reported by Cathy, she had to remove altogether her piano, which was located in her living room area to accommodate the space for her television set. Later after its introduction to family rooms, television became the focal point of discussion because people could not only talk about what was not only happening at home but also around the world. We see that the television sets moving to the living room made pianos be put in the basement; thus, they became less and fewer needs of one when designing and planning a home. We can acknowledge this move to depict some of these family home features in magazines that are known to cause waves. They often depicted the television at the center of the family room (Spigel, 1992).

**Question 2**

After its introduction to the family features, it was depicted to feature in family rooms, where they were strategically placed to remove the traditional set, which included the pianos and the fireplace. Most of these features were shown in magazines that placed the television set at the center of the living room. This allowed the family to circle around it, the way it was like in the times of the fireplace area that people sat around to get warmth while sharing stories and memories. We can acknowledge that since the newspapers and magazines mainly talked about the leaders and prominent members of the community. Thus, if it was done by the prominent and most prosperous, why could it not be done by the ordinary American? (Spigel, 1992)

After interior decorators, noticed people often requested their television sets to match the colors and design of the living room. This gave the room a camouflage feeling because the television more often than not resembled the design of the living rooms wallpapers. After the 50s, the television sets became more of natural additions to the living room setting. It was mainly camouflaged because many believed that if one owned a television, they had to be privileged, and of high status. If one owned it when living in a middle-class state, he or she was seen as a very important person in that community. This plus the fact that people believed the television and became a member of the family, it was important for it to be treated as a part of the home.

**Question 3**

As Antony sought, the television had brought negative impacts on children. This is because he believed the television had nearly the same negative effects, such as the promotion of vulgar language and sexual assault cases. As seen in one incident, a nine-year-old boy had the thoughts to kill his teacher, and in another, a boy tried to kill his classmate because of food. All because in these cases, they had seen that the same ad been shown in movies and television shows. In addition to the fact that they were always glued to the sets, this meant they would be very unproductive. They mostly watched cartoons and action movies that sometimes-contained information that was harmful to them. These action movies, parents believed, promoted violence and bad language that were harmful to their growth. The parents always undermined the ideas and wants of their children because they had more authority not only to control when the television could be watched but to also what could be watched. As most parents later believed, the television was mostly for the elderly because they understood more the purpose of the appliance in the home. This was important because most parents, who were from middle and lower-class families, believed it was an expensive appliance, thus was only used when necessary, and if the conditions allowed. Most believed that this new technology had more negative effects than positive ones, mostly because of the passing of passive and addictive behaviors (Spigel, 1992).

References

Spigel, L. (1992). Make room for TV: Television and the Family Ideal in Postwar America. Chicago University Press. Chicago