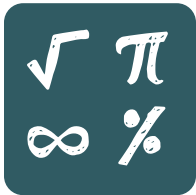


# VIOLENCE AND MEDIA: ARE RATING SYSTEMS NECESSARY?



rating | ban | interact | occur | complex

## DO THE MATH


Instead of **banning** adult content in movies, the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) gives **ratings** to let viewers know what **occurs** in a movie. The interactions between a movie’s creators and the MPAA can be **complex**. For example, if a movie’s creators are unhappy with a **rating**, they can edit and resubmit their movie to the MPAA until they get the **rating** they want. Critics of the current system point out that it seems to restrict curse words more than violence. For example, a PG-13 movie is usually only allowed one major curse word. With more than one swear word, it would likely be bumped up to an R rating. But that same movie could contain multiple instances of graphic violence, including shootings and stabbings, and still keep its PG-13 rating.

Rating	Average Earnings Per Film 1995 – 2024
PG-13	\$35,612,018
PG	\$32,069,637
G	\$23,532,335
R	\$11,648,388
Not Rated	\$343,790

**Option 1:** According to the table, which of the following is true?

- A. If a movie is rated PG-13, it will definitely earn more money than a movie rated R.
- B. On average, movies rated PG-13 earned more money than movies rated PG.
- C. On average, movies rated R earned more money than PG-rated movies.
- D. Movies that were not rated did not earn any money.

**Option 2:** If these average earnings applied to an individual movie, how much would it be worth to a movie’s creators to have a **rating** changed from R to PG-13?

 **Discussion Question:** Over a decade later, average earnings per film still follow the same trend. In general, a movie with a PG-13 **rating** will earn much more than a movie with an R **rating**. Why? Here is one possible explanation: For some parents, watching movies is a way to **interact** with their kids. They see a movie together, and then talk about it afterwards. This helps parents and kids build strong relationships. Therefore, R-rated movies may earn less money because parents don’t take their kids to see them. Is this a good explanation, or do you think the situation is more **complex**?