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Essay 2

I’ve always been intrigued with the idea of the dead rising, and as of late, with all the pop culture attention these mindless corpses have been receiving, I couldn’t help to wonder, why now? I used to be a freak for digging’ this stuff and now it’s the cool thing to like? They are brain-eating, disease infected, and decomposing people. Just recently I have noticed that the there is a new hype in a genre that has risen in movies and in the television shows, which is the topic of zombies. For some odd reason Zombies fascinate people ranging from different ages. I have recently asked a couple of my classmates a couple of questions that relate to the topic. And I have also done study by making my family watch the new season premiere of The Walking Dead, and I watched their reactions while watching the show and I also asked them some questions. I have received different responses from different people that range from them liking the whole zombie thing to someone being scared or hating them.

On October 11, 2012 I asked several people asking different questions relating to the topic. Thomas Callier seems to really like Zombies and how it has recently gone up to being into movies and TV shows. I asked Thomas what exactly makes people to like the whole zombie idea and he said, “It’s a strange thing that people are so into things like the end of the world and the apocalypse.” It seems like Thomas thought the whole end of the world theory may have sparked the great idea of the zombie apocalypse. Thomas overall seemed to enjoy watching zombies, but Chandler McChesney in the other hand said that she hated it and was sort of scared of it. Chandler did admit that the only good thing about zombies was when she was chased around by them while she went Haunted Horror Nights at Universal Studios. Thomas seemed to like zombies and Chandler doesn’t, but Brad Wittenberg had no idea of the whole zombie trend. Brad was completely oblivious of them; he did admit the only place that he saw zombies was when he played a video game called Call of Duty in a game mode where he has to survive several stages of zombies on a rampage. By doing this survey I got totally different answers some favoring the whole zombie idea some who doesn’t and some that didn’t know a thing on the topic.

I also got my family together on October 14, 2012 on Sunday night when the new season of The Walking Dead premiered. As they were watching the show I was noticing different reaction from everyone. My mom seemed to dislike the show and said that it was to gory even though she did admit that she likes watching some zombie movies. My siblings were thrilled over the fact that their favorite show has come back for another season. Like most teenagers they loved all the blood and horror that the show is great at doing. It seemed that most of my family seemed to enjoy the show and they agreed that the whole zombie thing seemed interesting and they hoped that more movies and shows should be made with new creative ways to make them enjoy it more.

I believe that overall zombies in general are liked by most people; many seem to like the thrill they get while watching the gory scenes of zombies devouring humans. I have speculated on how and why did the zombie trend suddenly became hyped and it was appearing everywhere from movie, TV shows, and even in them parks. It seems that it just recently started with movies like 28 days later, Dawn of the dead and Resident evil; it seems like these were some of the first movies that featured the whole zombie apocalypse theme. Just after the debut of these movies people noticed that zombies was becoming more popular in TV shows and movies. Off and on through progressing years following the 80’s there have been Zombie movies here and there, but never has there been a trend increase like the one we are currently experiencing. It seems like this trend is growing and it’s not stopping any time soon.

I decided to go through the internet and I just typed zombies in the Google search bar, for my surprise a lot of articles and stories popped up. It seems like “zombie attacks” have recently rising. One of the most recent ones and probably the most popular one is about this homeless man being attacked by another man who chewed up most of his face off. Police didn’t know how to explain the accident and most articles started labeling the attack as a “zombie attack”. There’s no blaming them, they wanted to get their audience attention and what’s best then describing a zombie attack and bringing up the idea of a zombie apocalypse right now. We are in the year 2012, the year that the Mayans believe that the world is going to end or so they say. This zombie trend seems to be getting out of hand, don’t you think? Well I think so, but let’s just enjoy it while it last.

Another reason why people may enjoy watching zombies devouring other people us is because they like watching people feeling doomed and afraid. It seems like people like to see how they would actually react and feel if an actual zombie apocalypse occurs. In order to keep their viewers entertained directors and producers try to make the scene as real and intense as possible. The viewers are hooked and demand more of it; this mostly explains how this trend became so popular in a short period of time. The fear, feeling doomed, watching the panic, gory scenes, all together makes the zombie apocalypse feel like a possible thing that might happened to the world.

My ethnography helps me in the way that it showed how different people either liked the zombies or hated them. I believed the some can be either neutral about it as well but they can’t deny that the whole zombie theme has risen quickly and there are several ideas why. The ethnography has answer most of the questions, It just left onto me and how I view the whole topic. Do I agree with my research or not, it all depends on the question. But one thing is sure and that is that this trend is not ending soon and there’s so many reasons to support this idea.