Lawmakers seeking warning labels for 'violent' games

By [Brett Molina](http://content.usatoday.com/topics/reporter/Brett+Molina), USA TODAY, 3/20/2012 Joe Raedle, Getty Images

[](http://i.usatoday.net/communitymanager/_photos/game-hunters/2012/03/20/gamesx-large.jpg)

Two members of the House of Representatives [have introduced a bill](http://thehill.com/images/stories/blogs/flooraction/jan2012/hr4204.pdf) seeking new warning labels for most video games.

According to a [report from The Hill](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/216903-house-members-call-for-new-warning-labels-on-most-video-games), some games would carry the following message: "WARNING: Exposure to violent video games has been linked to aggressive behavior."

The label would appear on every video game except for ones rated "EC" for Early Childhood, targeted at kids ages 3 and older.

"The video game industry has a responsibility to parents, families and to consumers -- to inform them of the potentially damaging content that is often found in their products," says Rep. Joe Baca, D-Calif., who joins Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., in introducing the bill.

"Just as we warn smokers of the health consequences of tobacco, we should warn parents -- and children -- about the growing scientific evidence demonstrating a relationship between violent video games and violent behavior," says Wolf, as reported by The Hill.

Video games currently carry ratings -- ranging from E for Everyone to M for Mature -- on the front and back of boxes, as deemed by the [Entertainment Software Ratings Board (ESRB)](http://www.esrb.org/index-js.jsp). In some cases, ratings will also carry descriptors detailing what is portrayed in a game, such as Violence, Blood or Suggestive Themes.

The bill is the latest legal challenge for the video game industry. Last year, it [scored a major victory in the U.S. Supreme Court](http://content.usatoday.com/communities/gamehunters/post/2011/06/supreme-court-strikes-down-violent-video-games-ban/1#.T2jM6MUgeHc), after justices struck down a proposed California law that would have banned the sale of violent video games to minors.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Read the article “Lawmakers seeking warning labels for 'violent' games.”
2. SUMMARIZE this article in YOUR OWN WORDS and in 3-4 SENTENCES.
3. Compare and contrast this article to “Rockers, Rappers, and Freedom of Speech” using a Venn diagram.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. SUMMARIZE “Lawmakers seeking warning labels for 'violent' games.” D0 NOT copy; use your own words. 3-4 sentences.

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2. Compare and contrast “Lawmakers seeking warning labels for 'violent' games.” With “Rockers, Rappers, and Freedom of Speech.”

Violent Games Both Articles Rockers, Rappers,…

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