Media influences crime

8 Great ways...

News Values
Media concentrate on news stories that will get viewers, these stories tend to be about violent and graphic crimes which skews the actual types of crime that are occurring. Property crime unreported.

Arousal
Feminists would argue that the representation of women as sexually available in adult media leads to crimes such as sexual assault and violence against women because it is normalised in the media.

Labelling and Stereotyping
Certain groups, such as minority ethnic groups and working class are stereotypically seen as being more criminal and therefore marginalised in society. This leads to them being more involved in crime.

Moral Panics and Folk Devils
Moral entrepreneurs use the media to put forward ‘moral panics’ about the behaviour of those that deviate from norms and values. This generates panic amongst public and clampdown by police.

Desensitisation
Video games and films containing violence do not show consequences of that violence and therefore users become desensitised to real impacts of violence.

Copycat Violence
Allegations that spree killings are influenced by ‘deviant sources’ of media – e.g. columbine massacre supposedly influenced by Marilyn Manson and The Matrix

Misrepresentation of White collar crime
As the media is controlled by the elites, they focus most of their resources on reporting crimes of the powerless rather than the powerful. Less focus of the ‘suites, more on the streets’ as corporate crimes and white collar crimes go unreported. Nearly 300 deaths in workplace compared to 600 murders per year in UK but very little mention of corporate responsibility.

Deviancy Amplification
Young suggested that the media reporting of criminal behaviour often led to an increase in deviant behaviour as the police crackdown rallies others to the cause. An example is knife crime – more knives on streets – more likelihood of being killed.