Not all acts of aggression are alike. As Tate explains in this essay, some acts of aggression are done for the "pleasure" of it; other acts of aggression are a means to an end. Do superheroes act aggressively for the pleasure of it, or is their aggression a means to an end? Tate proposes that, compared to other heroes, Batman's aggression is for the pleasure of it. Tate lays out his argument; you decide whether you agree.

AGGRESSION IS A TOPIC WELL STUDIED in social psychology and well publicized outside psychology. The assertion that portrayals of violence in various media (e.g., television, movies, and video games) are linked to actual violent behavior for children and teen-

\[1\] Many self-described enthusiasts, such as myself, refer to him as "the Batman" rather than just "Batman" based on the original title given him in his first appearance in *Detective Comics* #27 (May, 1939) as "The Bat-Man."