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Final Hip/Slice

Professor Dean

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Stained

Walking through communities that have nice clean painted walls without a stain or graffiti on the wall. That’s when I started wondering of the community I live in, the one that the walls are covered with graffiti and they do not have fresh painted walls. I wonder what the community solution are to maintain nice clean walls and free of graffiti. I wonder if it is because there is an issue of poverty in some communities that also increase the issue of vandalism with in the society. Why is it rare for wealthy communities to not get affected by any graffiti done by gang members? The only way to find out about this issue is by discovering the true upbringing about graffiti and the ones affected by it. By using Hip/Slice “Fix-it” Call-to-Action it will focuses on how and who started graffiti, how graffiti affects communities, and finding a solution to graffiti.

Graffiti has been part of society for years. Graffiti started in the middle of 1960 and it all began in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. The first ones to do graffiti were known as Cool, Earl, and Cornbread according to good graffiti.org. The reason why they did graffiti, it was to gain recognition. By the age of 12 years old is when teenagers found to get involve with graffiti. Gwinnettcb.org it states, “The term graffiti comes from the Greek word graphein, which means, “to write”. Graffiti is the name for lettering or images painted or scratched on fences, buildings, overpasses, train cars, and other surfaces”. Graffiti is done by using spray paint and markers. The use of graffiti has change over the years because graffiti is now used my gang members to communicate to other rival gang members.

Today graffiti has become a real danger in communities because gang members are the ones pertaining to the graffiti and it causes violent actions in the community. The reason why those individuals might be doing graffiti it is for fame, rebellion, self-expression and marking territory. That’s why I took the time to do a 15 weeks observation in my community to observe the issue of graffiti being done in my community. In the Hip/Slice “Fix-it” Call- to Action it states, Day 1 Saturday Feb 1, 2019 (8:00pm- 8:30) “Today I took my son to the park and I observed graffiti on the wall. All that I could think of is how can a beautiful park have a wall full of graffiti. While I analyze the graffiti, I start to wonder about how fast could someone actually write without getting cough by police. Then I observed that there was different style of letters and some I did not understand”. This observation did have my mind thinking that day. What went through my head was by having graffiti at the park it gave a negative outlook to the park. The park is a place were parents take their children to play. Children are being technically exposed to graffiti which can lead them to be influenced and want to do graffiti when they grow up. This is one-way graffiti effect people. The community and law enforcement should gather together and find an end to graffiti vandalism.

Communities have been in real danger by the use of graffiti and it is time to find a solution for upcoming generations. There has been stabbing, fighting and shooting in communities all because gang members decided to leave a message which causes the rival gangs to react. Graffiti is initially done in the night because gang members take advantage of the dark to hid anywhere in case, they see a police officer passing by. By today young adults are not having any limits in what time of the day they do the graffiti. Hip/Slice “Fix-it” Call-to- Action it states, Day 10 (Tuesday April 10 3:30pm) The Pomona Police Department caught a 24-year-old male doing graffiti on a lamp post. This is how bad this problem is in my community that taggers are vandalizing during the day and there is no respect of the community. I also do not understand why Pomona Police are letting this individual walk away like if it is okay to be destroying public property. I wonder if police officers have given up on trying to arrest or punish this individual just because they feel that there will be no stop for graffiti”. In my opinion taggers will keep doing graffiti until there is server consequences and they feel the freedom to do it. That is why it is important for the community and law enforcement to unite together and make the city walls look clean and without any stains. Vandalism should not be ignored.

In communities the solutions that have been made to the issue of graffiti is offering a 1,000 award to people that sees anyone doing graffiti on the wall. While I was at the Montclair bus station, I noticed the 1,000-reward sign to report anyone doing an act of vandalism. On the I noticed someone had tagged on it. The words that were written on the sign were “RFA”. Those words can indicate recognition for their crew or gang. I believe the sign is located at places like the bus station because the walls near the tracks is a place where most graffiti can be found. The police department also wants the community to help identify those who are doing the graffiti. In my opinion I believe the community might not think 1,000 reward is worth to just report someone. The reason why people might not report anyone it is because they do not want to risk their own life. I asked a woman named Anna Mendoza at the bus station if she will be willing to report anyone doing graffiti. Anna Mendoza states, I have not have the time to even notice the 1,000 award sing but even if I noticed it I would not get in anyone’s business”. Annas respond made me realized that she is right because people might be in a rush to get were ever, they need to. The 1,000-award sign might not be the best solution out there.

Another solution that communities have done is cleaning walls after an individual has done the graffiti. During the 15-week Hip/Slice “Fix-it: Call it-to Action I observed, Day 12 “crew members working hard to removing graffiti of the wall so it can look nice again”. I think this solution is in vain because the crew members can continuously be removing graffiti while the graffiti makers are putting new graffiti on the walls. I believe crew members can become feed up with constantly removing graffiti of the walls and could care less to remove it. The only reason why workers do it might be because it is part of their job.

A more sufficient solution for the issue of graffiti is not allowing easy purchase to spray cans and other tools graffiti makers use to do the graffiti. Stores should not allow minors to buy anything that can be used as a way to do vandalism on walls. Another solution to graffiti can be putting cameras in areas that are usually being use to put graffiti. By putting those cameras, it can help police officers catch or arrest the persons doing the graffiti. In reality I don’t know if the community and police department need to find a deeper solution to stop graffiti or have, they just given up. Los Angeles Police webpage states, educate the public especially young people about the cost of vandalism”. This solution can be an eye opener to the young adults doing the damage to the walls that it is not fairly cheap to keep removing the graffiti.

Besides gang members doing graffiti there is an opposing side to graffiti on the walls. There is adults and teenagers that participate in writing graffiti on the wall but are not part of any gangs. Teenagers an adult are claiming that they view graffiti as art therapy and self-expression. An interview done to my uncle Darwin Barcenas he explains why he sees graffiti has a part of art. Darwin states, I do graffiti because whenever I feel angry, I want to take out that emotion by using unnoticeable words which are hard to read. I purposely make it hard to read because I create that anger into a form of art”. His respond made me realize that graffiti has a good side to it but it does not stop it from being vandalism if it being done on the walls. For the individuals doing graffiti art they should look for a studio that safely allows them to display and make their masterpieces. The article *Protecting Artistic Vandalism: Graffiti and Copyright Law* “For these artists, the story would have been different if other graffiti artists painting over their work on the same walls; this is understood as part of the natural life cycle of graffiti and as part of the artistic dialogue that street art entails”. I think if individuals do there graffiti art in a unlawful matter it will prevent them to stay out of trouble with the police department and preventing a gang member to shooting them because they might think it’s a rival gang.

Society should come together with law enforcement to end the use of graffiti. By ending the use of graffiti there will be less volince in communities. It will prevent from new generation to fallow into the bad habit of vandalism. People really need to start thinking that it can be possible to have a community were all walls are graffiti free. This action won’t take place unless everyone unites and try harder to end graffiti. Hip/Slice “Fix-it” Call- to Action actually motivated me to do a difference in my community by speaking to the mayor of Pomona and put a plan in process. No more strained walls.

Work Cited

LERMAN, CELIA. “Protecting Artistic Vandalism: Graffiti and Copyright Law.” Journal of Intellectual Property & Entertainment Law, vol. 2, no. 2, Spring 2013, pp. 295–337.

Hip/Slice “Fix-it” Call-to-Action

You Can Prevent a Stand to Prevent Graffiti. *lapdonline.org.* www.lapdonline.org 2019.

Mendoza Ann. Personal Interview. 10 April.2019

Barcenas Darwin. Personal Interview. 12 May.2019