

Tahnaz Chowdhury

ENG1101

Unit 3: Writing in a New Genre Part I

Word Count: 706

5 December 2022

As commuters in New York, the #1 form of transportation is taking the train. In a room filled with those that live in New York, there will be over one person that has used the train as a form of transportation. There may be various reasons for taking the New York City Subway system, such as going to work, school, or events. In the typical year, over 600 million passengers entered the Subway system. The public transportation system has a daily ridership of roughly 3 million passengers. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, there were still violent attacks that had occurred in train stations.

There would be a couple attacks present of women that may have been harassed or assaulted. Before the pandemic, there would be approximately 1 violent crime per capita on the Subway stations. In between the years of 2012 to 2019, there has been below one violent crime per capita. During the midst of the pandemic, crimes taking place in the train stations would not happen as frequently as they do today. Reason being, many commuters had been aware of the crimes that were taking place inside any New York City Subway Station. Due to this, many riders have avoided using stations and instead, purchasing a vehicle of their own or using Uber/Lyft as a form of transportation. Due to the high rise of cases, many had worked online or attended their classes via zoom. This limited usage of transportation, making subways less crowded than usual.

The disadvantage of near empty train stations is that those who may use it may be targeted easily. After hitting near historic lows pre-pandemic, crime has been spiking in many parts of the country, including in the nation's most populous city. Shootings in New York City have more than doubled this year compared to the same time period in 2019. The city's new mayor has made public safety his top priority, and polls show that New Yorkers agree. About half say crime is issue number one for them. So, is the city at or close to a tipping point?”, said Judy Woodruff. This quote stated by Woodruff shows the struggles that New Yorkers are facing, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. New York has doubled in crime, in train stations alone. When using one of the forms of public transportation, most riders tend to become more alert and cautious of their surroundings.

Listening to the news or seeing coverage based on violence that has occurred to innocent civilians unprovoked has led to New Yorkers fearing the possibilities that they may be next. “Darrell Owens, an East Bay Transit Riders Union member and transit advocate in the Bay Area, said public transit was sometimes the only place Americans encounter strangers, meaning that fears about safety there are often disproportionate to the perils of driving, which is often the most dangerous regular activity for Americans. ‘The public is suffering in American cities,’ he said. ‘That’s why American transit is so fraught: It’s one of the only times secluded people see other members of the public.’ ” . The violence in New York Subway Stations has brought fear and paranoia onto commuters. People fear for their own safety and the safety of others. The trains are a public form of transportation where millions of New Yorkers may be in one spot at any given time. This case raises the chance of violence and chaos.

A solution that can help prevent violence in the New York Subway Stations is to enforce strict regulations.

- (1) a person to assault, harass, or murder another will face up to five to seven years.
- (2) Subway stations will not be a shelter for those without homes, they will need to be relocated to a homeless shelter for food, sleep, and a safe environment.
- (3) There will be law enforcement officers present at each of the New York City Subway stations to monitor safety.
- (4) There will be a metal detector placed within each turnstile, to ensure that civilians are not carrying a weapon.
- (5) Any law enforcement officer is allowed to pull anybody suspicious to the side for a X-ray baggage scanner and handheld metal sensitive detector.

## Resources:

- <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/25/us/public-transit-crime.html>
- <https://abc7ny.com/amp/subway-crime-slashing-bronx-stabbing-nyc/12302279/>
- <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/new-york-struggles-with-a-sharp-rise-in-violent-crime-a-mid-covid-19>
- <https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/nyc-crime/ny-woman-beaten-homeless-queens-subway-station-20220927-mla4qiba2fgixj4l7yztjdfba-story.html>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/12/nyregion/nyc-coronavirus-subway-crime.html>
- <https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/news/2022/04/13/subway-attack-places-scrutiny-on-police-transit-safety-efforts>
- <https://nypost.com/2021/02/03/nypd-wont-stop-subway-crime-if-cops-only-parade-on-mezzanines/>