

Jordi Rendon Cruz

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## **U2 Reflective Annotated Bibliography**

**Research Question:** Has the crime rate in the City of New York risen or decreased in recent years?

### **Introduction**

As a fellow New Yorker, hearing the word crime immediately rings a bell. Now you may ask why this is. Well current management such as the Governor and Mayor have been under fire for supposedly doing very little to stop crimes from occurring constantly. The media has voiced their opinions and shown evidence of crimes that go on in New York City. They are just covering the bare minimum and only showing the major crimes that happened earlier that day. Just seeing the fact that many New Yorkers on the news have voiced their concerns about crime has sparked up debate about crime in New York City. Which has led me to research this topic about crime in New York City. Basically, find out the answer to the research question which is, has the crime rate in the City of New York risen or decreased in recent years. What I expect to see is statistics prove the general opinion of New Yorkers who believe that crime in New York

City has risen over the previous years. Mainly due to the fact that New Yorkers have even gone as far as to say that this is most unsafe, they had felt in their time in New York City.

**Source Entries:**

**Citation #1:**

Marcelo, Philip. "FACT FOCUS: NYC Crime Is Not Worst Ever, despite Claims." *AP News*, AP News, 24 Aug. 2023, [apnews.com/article/trump-bragg-new-york-manhattan-nypd-4c0cb6ef067b2e3f2358ec9542c900cd](https://apnews.com/article/trump-bragg-new-york-manhattan-nypd-4c0cb6ef067b2e3f2358ec9542c900cd).

**Summary:**

Crime in NYC has seen a massive spike. This is what many New Yorkers may say if they were asked to comment about NYC crime rates. Contrary to popular belief, statistics have actually proven otherwise. It has been shown that crime in NYC has actually decreased. However, there is still some truth to New Yorkers' popular belief about NYC crime rates. Crime can be separated into two major parts, "Small / Petty" crimes and "Major / Serious" crimes. Statistics have shown that the "Petty" crimes have actually spiked in recent times. Compared to the "Major" crimes such as murders, rapes, robberies, and burglaries have actually decreased by quite a margin. However, statistics prove that the number of major crimes was significantly higher three decades prior, when New York City was ironically considered as "America's Safest Big City" at the time.

**Reflection:**

Crime is broken up into multiple categories in order to differentiate the types of crimes that have been committed. The allows presenters to have some sort of data or proof in order to

back up whatever statement or idea they are trying to portray. For me personally, I have seen crimes come up recently, especially through news outlets which have created an environment in which viewers feel more unsafe. When news outlets start to give their opinions on certain situations, they may influence the viewer. Whether or not what they say may be true it is always best to allow the viewer to see the data in the form of charts and graphs and allow them to create their own view of the situation.

**Quotation:**

“In nearly all crime categories and in all of the states, New York City - with its population of 8.5 million sitting on a land mass of just 302 square miles - is safer,” he said during Monday’s congressional hearing. “And ironically, Manhattan has a lower crime rate than the rest of New York City.”. This quote seems to suggest that New York City statistically is much safer compared to previous years. When they go into depth about what boroughs are riddled with crime Manhattan is the lowest in that aspect which is quite unheard of.

**Citation #2:**

Crime in the City Full Episode: Oct. 6, 2023, FOX 5 New York, 6 Oct. 2023,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDwhL87ivaQ>. Accessed 6 Nov. 2023.

**Summary:**

This is a series uploaded by Fox 5 New York. The series describes the most notable crimes that took place in New York City that week. For instance, one of the more major crimes that were committed was a murder in a bodega. Many of you may believe that this crime,

especially something as serious as a murder, would occur at night where it makes it difficult to identify the murderer. However, this crime was committed in broad daylight, which not only proves New Yorkers opinion of an increase of crime. The majority of the residents have said that crime has become more frequent and makes them feel unsafe at times. An example from the video is a bodega owner who witnessed a murder in his own bodega. It has been called for improvement in the city by bodega activists.

**Reflection:**

The video shows the numerous amounts of crimes going on throughout New York City. As a New Yorker myself, I can agree with the people who were interviewed since crime has been more frequent. No matter the time of day, crimes just happen as if no consequences will be faced by the criminals. In broad daylight, these violent crimes are happening. It is as if the criminals won't be penalized for the crimes they commit, making it seem like there is no help and is basically a free for all in the City of New York.

**Quotation:**

“To see that that's definitely scary it's alarming it's it feels dangerous you know in reality I'm scared I'm working scared nothing could stop the shooters from entering the store on Sunday and nothing could in case they return.”. The quote comes from one of the interviewees in which they expressed their fear of crime in New York City. This is what the majority of New Yorkers believe.

**Citation #3:**

Braga, Anthony A., et al. “Underground Gun Markets and the Flow of Illegal Guns into the Bronx and Brooklyn: A Mixed Methods Analysis.” *Journal of Urban Health*, vol. 98, no. 5, 2021, pp. 596–608, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11524-020-00477-z>.

**Summary:**

Violence in New York City has decreased over the past two decades one major crime remains. Gun-related crimes have remained in the spotlight in New York City. There are many factors that come into play when figuring out why gun crimes remain constant. Although New York is known for its very strict gun laws, gun violence still finds its way through. In the study conducted, it was found that the guns used in the crimes have been obtained from other states which have little to no gun law restrictions. Most of the murders done by these illegally obtained weapons have been by gang-related members.

**Reflection:**

Although statistics show that violence in New York City has been lower currently compared to the early 2000s and 2010s, it doesn't depict what the actual citizens see. Most citizens nowadays see crime happening at any time of day. Now crimes are committed in broad daylight and criminals commit crimes as if they were to face no major consequences. One of the major crimes committed are murders which have usually been done with a firearm. It has been proven that those firearms have almost always come outside of New York since the laws in New York are very strict. This could potentially spark an increase of major crimes in future due to not cutting down on illegally obtained weapons.

**Quotation:**

“The New York City Police Department (NYPD) reported an 8.1% increase in murders from 295 in 2018 to 319 in 2019 [1]. The NYPD attributed the rise in murders to the ready availability of illegal guns to high-risk individuals and increased shootings by and against gang-involved young men in disadvantaged neighborhoods located in the Bronx and Brooklyn”. This quote shows that murders have increased in recent times and have been done through illegally obtained firearms.

**Conclusion:**

As previously mentioned in order to portray an idea or fact, there always has to be some type of data or credible source which can back up the point trying to be made. When conducting research on whether crime in New York City has risen or decreased in recent years, really surprised me. It has led me to find out that the statement made by most New Yorkers, “Crime rates have risen”, has some truth to it. In the aspect that when we are talking about crime it is separated into 2 major categories which are “Major” and “Petty” crimes. In the case of crime rates rising, we would be talking about “Petty” crimes which consists of shoplifting, disorderly conduct, etc. Research has shown that the “Major” crimes such as rapes, murders, etc., have decreased by quite a margin when comparing it to previous years. After going through all the research, it has led me to make my research question way more specific. In other words, I would’ve asked whether major or petty crimes have risen or decreased in recent times in the area of New York City. Mainly, due to the fact that crimes can be categorized in many ways. This has influenced my understanding of what is going on in New York City with its crime rates. Making myself more aware of what areas and what types of crimes are being committed which could be

very important. The people who need to hear this information would be New Yorkers living in one of the five boroughs. Since the research conducted on crime was specifically targeted towards New York City and not New York State in general.