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ENG1121

Unit 2 Writing Assignment

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## **U2 Annotated Bibliography**

### **How have gangs involved youth with violence and become widespread?**

#### **Introduction**

I am interested in this question because I am almost certain that not everyone has been aware of gangs and gang violence and if they do, I think it is important to show that there is a lot of youth being involved in these gangs. However, New York City has been the state with the most common gang violence in the past 10 years. I am personally interested in this topic because gang violence happens on a daily basis with and without being on camera. My highschool personally had a lot of gang violence in and outside of school which was always involving someone getting hurt very badly and sent to the hospital, or even have “gang fights”, which means that a group of people fight another group of people. Sometimes the fights would be just for fun, and then sometimes it would actually be so bad that the security guards have to physically stop the fight in the teacher’s classroom. Even sometimes the teachers would get hurt just because the kids fighting would go near them without knowing and mess up their items and the teachers themselves teaching or not teaching. And because of this, I’ve noticed that violent gangs usually attract the youth group at a young age. Through my research, I hope to find out a lot of information as to why and how gangs came to be violent, how did it become widespread,

and why do young kids get involved with it. Honestly speaking, I believe that the youth are attracted to the gangs as a sign of acceptance considering their background.

Since the mid-20th Century, gang violence in this country has become widespread. All 50 states and the District of Columbia have reported gang problems (Howell, 2012). This issue severely ruins the lives of youth, who predominantly join gangs. Data from the National Gang Center surveys found that during the mid-1990s to the early 2000s there was a decline in gang problems. However, the prevalence of gang activity greatly climbed between 2001 and 2005 and has since remained constant. According to the National Gang Center, a 2012 survey indicated that larger cities and suburban counties accounted for the majority of gang-related violence. New York is a large urban center. The New York Police department (NYPD) Chief Terence Monahan said 30 percent of homicides in the city are gang-related while 40 percent of non-fatal shootings are gang-related (Moore & Feis, 2018). These percentages are significant.

One of the most well-known events involving gang violence occurred in the Bronx when Guzman-Feliz also is known as Junior fell victim to gang violence. Members of the offending gang were aged 18 to 24 and had mistaken the young boy for someone else. Junior was stabbed multiple times in the street with machetes and knives. This gang the Trinitarios were also found to be responsible for two other murders. Almost every year there are accidents related to gangs. There was a 15 percent increase in youth gang problems reported in the National Youth Gang Survey (NYGS) from 2002 to 2008 and it has been steady since then (Egley, Howell, and Moore, 2012). Our mission is to decrease youth gang membership.

## **Source Entries**

*Citation*

Egley, Arlen, et al. "Highlights of the 2010 National Youth Gang Survey." U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Apr. 2012, <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh176/files/pubs/237542.pdf>

*Summary*

The author, Egley, and Arlen talked about a survey that was made back in 2010 but published in 2012. It came to speak about gangs and their activity, reports, their expansion, and their influences in life. Throughout the document, it provides valuable information about how there are over an estimated 29,000 gangs and possibly 756,000 gang members all across the United States. In order for them to figure out their findings and information, they had to make a survey. They then claim that the presence of these gangs and gang activity are always in fact associated with violence and can come to potential serious crimes.

*Reflection*

This source is valuable and relevant to my topic. Throughout the entire document, it did not just include valuable information, but it also included data and charts to prove their survey findings. The charts showed their overall result about gangs and the percentage of reports of gang problems in the years 1996 to 2010. They then include another chart but this time they are showing the "Gang-Related Homicides in the United States" (Egley, Howell, and Moore, 2012). In this chart, they were able to collect data from the years 2006 to 2010. The inside of the chart shares Agencies Reporting Gang Activity, Agencies Reporting Gang Homicide Statistics, Coverage Rate (%), the total Gang Homicides amount, homicides in Suburban Counties, and in

smaller areas. And through this, I am able to agree with the authors and also see the amount of gang and gang violence has increased throughout the years.

The authors writing style is very descriptive since they use surveys in their research, and data charts. It brings more of a trusting source away. Through their research, you can tell that their audience is students like me who want to know more about gangs. Not just how gangs are violent, but how it attracts the youth to be in it. And what's so good about this source is that you don't need to know any other information to understand what is being said. One question that I have for the authors is: what made you come up with including surveys in your research?

### *Quotation*

“It is a widely held public perception that larger proportions of gang-member migrants are positively associated with increases in local gang activities, such as violence, drugs, and conflict” (Egley, Howell, and Moore, 2012).

### *Citation*

Moore, Tina, and Aaron Feis. “NYC's Murder Rate Rises Due to Gang Violence.” *New York*

*Post*, New York Post, 10 July 2018,

<https://nypost.com/2018/07/10/nycs-murder-rate-rises-due-to-gang-violence/>

### *Summary*

This New York Post talks about the lives lost due to gang violence. In particular, it speaks about the recent death in that year, in particular of innocent Lesandro “Junior” Guzman-Feliz, who was killed by a gang. The author uses persuasive language while writing. He does this by

including many sources to back up the situation revolving around gangs and their violence. It also explains the hot spots of gang violence. And how dangerous gangs to be for anybody, even to the innocent just like Junior. He also uses data and the opinions on both the mayor's thoughts and the NYPD thoughts on gangs and the violence that comes along with them.

### *Reflection*

Though this article is short, it has valuable information that can be used for research purposes and deep inside info when asking cops for information in relation to gangs. I personally agree with the NY Post, because of the fact that these gangs are causing unwanted violence in people's neighborhoods. They explain juniors' death and how, "Guzman-Feliz was yanked out of a bodega and hacked to death with machetes and knives by a mob of Trinitarios gangbangers who confused him with a rival" (Moore & Feis, 2018). The pain his mother, and family must've felt and still feel to this day. All just because he looked like the initial target that the gang was going to kill. No life should've been killed and taken away, to begin with. If I were to say something to the author, I would like to ask him: Why did you only talk about the death of Junior? There are many more victims of gang assault.

He shows statistics stating, "Much of that bloodshed has come in the Bronx, which has seen 51 homicides so far this year, up 64.5 percent from last year's 31 to the same date, department stats show" (Moore & Feis, 2018). Many deaths have occurred that year and even the percentage changed by a lot because of gang violence. The source is credible because it's a newspaper that is open to the public and reaches out to those with more information about the situation.

### *Quotation*

“Much of that bloodshed has come in the Bronx, which has seen 51 homicides so far this year, up 64.5 percent from last year’s 31 to the same date, department stats show.”(Moore & Feis, 2018).

### *Citation*

Pyrooz, David C., and Gary Sweeten. “Gang Membership Between Ages 5 and 17 Years in the United States.” *Journal of Adolescent Health*, vol. 56, no. 4, Elsevier Inc, 2015, pp. 414–19, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2014.11.018>

### *Summary*

In this journal, David C. Pyrooz and Gary Sweeten, surround themselves with the idea of gang members and their joining gangs. Its main focus comes down to the young population. In this case, from the ages 5 and 17 years old. Data was collected and they state that the majority of people joining gangs and participating or even leaving are faced in the youth. Through their results, they were able to see that the people in these gangs were mostly men, and are identified as black, Hispanic kids who come from broken homes and poor living.

### *Reflection*

Through this journal, I am able to yet again agree and see why and how the age groups that join gangs at an early age are affected and pressured or influenced to join gangs. The authors clearly even say, “We discovered that significantly more people are involved with gangs than previous estimates would suggest” (Pyrooz & Sweeten, 2015). It then talks about how they are raised in a single-parent home with either no mother figure or father figure, and many may

choose to seek guidance somewhere else. And that's where these gangs may come to a place and make them feel protected, and feel that it should be right to join these dangerous gangs. Even at an early age such as the journal mentions as early as before the age of 14.

The author's writing style leads me to think that they write expository. Since they continue to explain their reasoning as to why such young kids are joining gangs. Which continues to prove my hypothesis. Since the children may not feel appreciated at home or have their ideal life because of income issues, they may go and join gangs to be able to make their ideal life. However, this is dangerous because they'll join without knowing the things that come along with it. Overall, this source is effective because it is a journal that focuses on gang memberships through the ages of 5 and 17-year-olds in the United States, which is exactly what my research is about.

### *Quotation*

“We estimated that there were 1,059,000 youth gang members in the United States in 2010 (bounds ranging from 675,000 to 1,535,000)” (Pyrooz & Sweeten, 2015).

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, what I learned throughout this entire research is that youth represent an important group to be targeted for prevention and intervention programs. Prevention programs can target youth at risk of gang involvement and help decrease potential victims. Intervention programs and strategies provide sanctions and services for younger youth who are actively involved in gangs. While law enforcement suppression strategies can target the most violent gangs. Also, I was then able to find out why gangs have involved youth with violence and it

started becoming widespread. What surprised me the most through my findings was the fact that gang recruitment can start at a really young age such as 5 years old. What I learned from all the information is that it's all-important, doesn't matter where you live, there is always some sort of gang and it's important for the youth to stay away and not interact with them and to always tell someone about your whereabouts if you are outside alone. My research should be mostly directed to parents. Since this is about young children being apart of gangs and participating in gang violence, it is most fit for parents to read this and learn about what can happen if a child had too much liberty and not supervised for most of their time while growing up. This will probably change move the parents and will make them interact with their children instead of pushing them away, which will create distance and bad decision-making.