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English 1101, Prof. Scanlan

Date

## 5Pointz Destroyed: The Irony of Being Vandalized

### INTRODUCTION:

Who is to say what kind of art is right or wrong? When does fine art become a crime? Not everyone has the talent to illustrate beautiful artwork. I mean, there are multiple artistic styles and many creative minds in the world. Only few are recognized, though, and for the others, they are at home with either a pencil or paint and canvas drawing their guts out, hoping one day they get noticed as well. But is that all they can do. Hope? [this paragraph asks lots of questions, but we do not find the main Research Questions]

For thousands of years, a popular form of art has been around: graffiti. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, graffiti is writing or drawings that have been scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place. Ranging from simple written words to elaborate wall paintings, graffiti has existed since ancient times, with examples dating back to Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, and the Roman Empire.

According to author Nicholas Ganz's *Graffiti World: Street Art from Five Continents*, many artists tend to distance themselves from the word graffiti; they believe it is no longer contemporary. Moreover, it often conjures up images of vandalism and defacement, or it is treated as a generic term for street art. Ganz traveled through many countries to find that many artists prefer labeling their art as aerosol art (2-6).

In modern New York, some may inevitably pass a few buildings with signs of graffiti, or even traveling by train, there are still some traces of graffiti on the tunnel walls. One New York

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area has become famous for its graffiti. This area was best viewed while riding the 7 train by a five-story warehouse known as 5Pointz: The Institute of Higher Burning. It was an American outdoor art exhibit space in Long Island City in Queens, New York, considered to be the world's premiere "graffiti mecca," where aerosol artists from around the globe painted colorful pieces on the walls of the building. Unfortunately, as much as it was a beautiful sight where tourists loved visiting, about a year ago, in 2014, it was demolished by the owner Jerry Wolkoff, to be replaced by two rental towers. [There's lots of good information here, but not a clear Research Question—This is a logical place to put it]

This annotated bibliography is a beginning to my desire to learn more about the aerosol arts and the places created and destroyed in connection to this art. I expect to find that many people are upset with Wolkoff, but I also expect to find that the decision to take it down was financial. [409 words—need 300 minimum]

ANNOTATIONS:

Ganz, Nicholas. *Graffiti World: Street Art from Five Continents*. New York: Abrams, 2009.

In Ganz's book titled *Graffiti World: Street Art From Five Continents* we get a summary of the background of graffiti, it's origins, and how it was spread worldwide, how much it has grown in the Americas, and finally how it has gotten very popular in cities like New York and Philadelphia. The book contains some information on some well-known artist who have also had projects done in New York, such as graffiti work on 5Pointz. I believe this will help me with my

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research essay by giving me more info on graffiti as a whole instead of just a bland definition, and great for looking for a response on what the artist who have drawn on the building that is now demolished. [This is only 135 words—need 400 words minimum]

To finish this annotation, the student should write:

- ◆ a brief rhetorical analysis (an evaluation of the author's credentials, writing style, and purpose, and why you think the author is credible or not)
- ◆ a short analysis of why you believe the author chose that genre and why it was a good or bad choice for the intended audience
- ◆ include a couple of key quotes here that you might want to use later— these don't count toward your word count!

“Save 5 Pointz ‘Documentary’” YouTube. YouTube, 19 Nov. 2013. [URL goes here]

In this YouTube video, shows many artists, tourists, and everyday commuters coming together as one voice, to let the world know how they feel about 5Pointz being demolished, they fight with a passion, and talk about the meaning of the building, not as just a building with art on it, but as a community they have created, where they are able to share their love for art as a family. They talk about signing papers to help prevent the destruction of the building, for it would be heartbreaking to know that a place where people unite from all around the world to come see is destroyed. This video will help me with my research because I will be able to write a more passionate response to what this building meant to artist in the community and others from around the globe.

To finish this annotation, the student should write:

- ◆ YouTube URL
- ◆ names of directors, writers, and publisher (if available)
- ◆ a brief rhetorical analysis (an evaluation of the author's credentials, writing style, and purpose, and why you think the author is credible or not)
- ◆ a short analysis of why you believe the author chose that genre and why it was a good or bad choice for the intended audience
- ◆ include a couple of key quotes here that you might want to use later– these don't count toward your word count!

Weir, Richard. "Wall Hits a Patron of Graffiti." *The New York Times*. *The New York Times*, 14 Feb. 1998.

Weir's article titled "Wall Hits a Patron of Graffiti" summarizes the conflict between the people who have a passion for street art, and people who do not view it as so benignly. A site first established as the Phun Phactory in 1992 by Pat DiLillo under a program called Graffiti Terminators to discourage graffiti vandalism by encouraging artists to display their work in a formal showcase. Some people, such as Mariela Stanton, the chief of the anti-bias and youth gang bureau for the Queens District Attorney's Office disagrees that it is a good idea to encourage people to do graffiti work, for its just feeding their addictions, and who is to say that they will be satisfied after they are finish with their pieces of art, they might want to continue on other places, such as garages, peoples houses, businesses, etc. I believe this article will help me with my research paper because it will give me a strong argument on how graffiti being legalized

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on some areas have been a great influence for many people who want to show off their talents without having to worry about police chasing them down. It also helps me by giving information on the origin of how 5Pointz was first established.

To finish this annotation, the student should write:

- ♦ a brief rhetorical analysis (an evaluation of the author's credentials, writing style, and purpose, and why you think the author is credible or not)
- ♦ a short analysis of why you believe the author chose that genre and why it was a good or bad choice for the intended audience
- ♦ a couple of key quotes here that you might want to use later– these don't count toward your word count!

CONCLUSION:

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[What should the conclusion to your annotated bibliography do? You need to summarize your key findings, and explain what surprised you and how your thinking on your question deepened or changed. You will also need to explain why you think what you learned is important, and who you think should hear about it. At least 400 words]

[Note: This draft is about 1200 words]

\*this draft is adapted from Justin Alphonse's 2015 essay on 5Points and subsequently published in *City Tech Writer*.