

Miguel Angel Castillo

Mr. Raya

Puente 10

5/24/17

### Unit 3 Performance Task: The Art of Graffiti

Art branches off into many categories including graffiti. Art that lies on a different canvas. Recently, there have been debates over graffiti and whether it should be considered a form of art. A growing border between those who are against graffiti being art, and those who are in favor. In my opinion graffiti represents a form of art because it expresses ideas, feeling, creativity, uniqueness and individualism.

Graffiti, however, can lead to social decline. “You see graffiti on the subway, you get the perception the area is unsafe.” said O’ Loughlin, a member of TAGNET (Tagger And Graffiti Network Enforcement Teams). “People who see it worry that they’re in a high crime neighborhood.” This relates to Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs, because people will begin to feel that their basic needs of safety aren’t being satisfied. Much like a domino effect, one event leads to another, which leads to another. In this case people stay away, property values go down and more serious crime starts to move in. Another problem lies in the cost to cover it up or scrub it off. TAGNET estimates that the cost could go as high as \$15 billion a year.

On the other hand, graffiti expresses ideas, feeling, and creativity. In the city of Bristol, for example, and artist by the name of Banksy has set up a large array of street art that has politicians and the media changing their views on vandalism. Banksy works shows the ideas he has, expresses his feelings, and creativity. An observer can notice the amount of effort Banksy

puts in by taking a look at his work. Usually one would describe art as the expressing of ideas, feeling, and creativity, Banksy does all of the above, but on the side of a building instead of a canvas.

Banksy's work also shows individualism and uniqueness. All of Banksy's displays something unique, a different topic or idea than his last. It also demonstrates his point of view, the way he perceives the world, as his work differs than that of everyone else. It shows his personality and the items he takes an interest in or likes. It also inspires other people, as people from all over Europe go to Bristol to take a look and admire his work, giving the city a huge cultural and economic benefit.

For a while, graffiti has been constantly viewed as a negative, always judging the shadow it creates. This relates to Plato's Allegory of the Cave because people are looking at the situation from a prisoner's perspective, however, as people begin to free themselves from their chains and go outside the cave to become enlightened, they begin to see graffiti in a new light, a new perspective. As a result of Banksy's work, and the work of others like him, they have sparked a debate over what counts as art and the boundaries between graffiti and art. Banksy has accomplished this by showing ideas, creativity, feeling, uniqueness, and individualism just like any other work of art in the past.