Context points:

Justification (Greta)

Personal experiences

Why London

Why is it important to talk about crime? Prove how it is relevant in London--Maybe include political regulations passed in the recent past

Aims (Greta)

What is this project trying to achieve?

Hypotheses (Greta)

What are our thoughts going into the project?

Definition:

A person commits robbery if in the course of stealing or attempting to steal from someone, they use force or the threat of force. This is sometimes colloquially referred to as “mugging”.

A person commits “theft from the person” if they steal property while the property is being held or carried by the victim. This includes snatch thefts (where some degree of force is directed to the property but not to the victim) and stealth thefts (where the victim is unaware of the offence being committed, for example, pick-pocketing). Unlike robbery, these offences do not involve violence or threats to the victim.

Overall relevance:

Based on statistics by the Metropolitan Police, between September 2018 and October 2020, around 8,2% of the total population fell subject to some form of theft in London.

These numbers become even more drastic when investigating some of the central boroughs of greater London, with a rate of 15,2% in Camden and 15% in Chelsea.

Despite the evolution of street surveillance and law enforcement, street crime of theft still realms as one of the most prevalent social issues in the boroughs of London. Watch Your Pockets will aim to investigate the reasons, effect and statistical prevalence of theft in London, all in order to create a form of guide for our fellow students to navigate some of London’s biggest and most popular areas safely.

Personal experiences:

The idea of this project was born from our own personal feelings of fear and frustration when it came to navigating the streets of London. As a group of international students moving to London for the first time due to purposes of higher education, one of the biggest culture shocks we all had to overcome was the sudden need for increased awareness of street crimes. Every member of our group has either a personal or close-friend-based story of stolen phones, cash or credit card, not to mention attacks of more severe nature. Thus, this project is something deeply personal to each and every one of us, one that we wish to investigate on a deeper level. Other than raising awareness to the general issue, we aim to create a guide to show who, when and where is at greatest risk of property theft, thus generating a safer environment for our fellow London residents.

Why is it important to talk about crime? Prove how it is relevant in London--Maybe include political regulations passed in the recent past

The prevalence of street level crime in London becomes increasingly obvious upon investigating the number of articles written about it in various news organisations, tackling things from governmental policy strategies to personal experiences of the police officers or even victims of crime. When compared on an international scale to other, similar sized metropolitan cities, London performs shockingly badly on some of the scales concerned with theft and overall safety of its citizens.

Guardian article: I’m a police officer in London. Here’s why we’ve lost control of the streets

The Telegraph 2017: London is now more dangerous than NYC, stats suggest

TfL launches new scheme to curb London bike theft

Aims (Greta)

What is this project trying to achieve?

Aims of the Project.

The purpose of this essay is to understand the nature of when, where, how and against whom crimes of theft occur in London. We seek to investigate the reason behind the high rates, whether there are any patterns discoverable both on a temporal and spatial spectrum, and whether the variables we analyse have any significance to theft rates. Furthermore, this research aims to achieve the following:

Through answering these questions about the understanding of why and how street theft happens, this will improve the safety of society.

Observe temporal data of how theft of personal property rates in different boroughs have changed over time.

Create data visualisations from which holistic conclusions can be drawn on the nature of theft offences.

Analyse the tested variables and understand which could be considered as significant.

To contribute to the research about what contextual factors are significant to theft of personal property rates and where offences of theft are likely to occur in London Boroughs, specifically focused on the differences between Camden and Chelsea.

Increase awareness about the phenomenon of street level crimes in London, thus improving potential policy plans on a governmental level and further encouraging victims to report the crimes.

Ultimately, this project aims to produce an insight into how street level crimes may be best tackled. Through investigating the link between various variables and street theft rates, our research aims to provide an answer for the Mayor of London’s Office for Policing and Crime by highlighting how resources should be allocated to cut back these crimes, through adopting new plans to influence the factors that impact the trend.

Hypotheses:

Before conducting our investigation, we determined hypotheses which are ultimately based on our prior experience and comprehension of the nature of crimes in London boroughs. Developing further, as we extended our understanding of the topic, through carrying out investigations into prior studies and the literature review, our assumptions and expectations of the project evolved. We set the following points:

- Unemployment rates are significant to street theft

- The rates of street theft are similar in areas generally consider “fancy” or “dodgy”