

Gracie Gilpin

4/13

Stand-Alone Prompt

6th Grade

Writing situation:

5 Pointz Aerosol Art Center, Inc. is an outdoor art exhibit space in Long Island City, New York, considered to be the world's premiere "graffiti Mecca," where aerosol artists from around the globe paint colorful pieces on the walls of a 200,000-square-foot factory building.

The space is owned by the Wolkoff family who, after 40 years of ownership, have decided to develop the 5 Pointz site. This would require that the graffiti be painted over. Many are upset claiming that the graffiti is art and should not be destroyed.

Writing directions:

The New York City Planning Commission will vote to approve or deny plans to build condos on the property. Supporters of 5Pointz, who argue that graffiti is art, and the Wolkoff family, who are in favor of covering the graffiti, are urging others to write a letter to the New York City Planning Commission to share their side and help influence the planning commission.

Do not write outside this box.

4/13/15

Dear New York City Planning Commission,
The Wolkoff family who owns the popular graffiti site "5 Pointz" decided to paint over all the graffiti and change it into condos. The graffiti art has been there for 40 years. I think they should not paint over all that art work.
I want you to deny the plans to paint over the art.

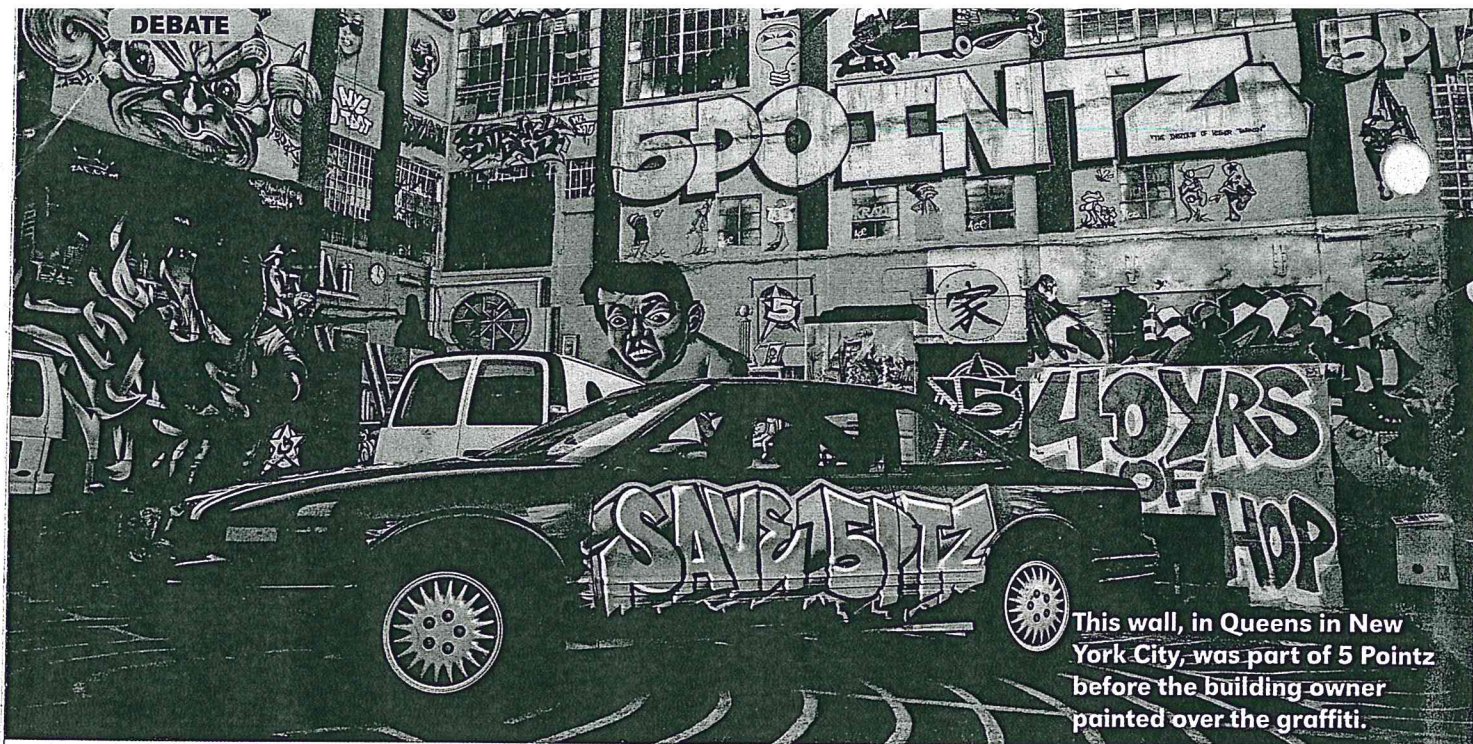
Some people argue that violent gangs often use graffiti to mark their territory. Sometimes this is true, but graffiti is mostly used to express emotion. For example I've seen people write graffiti to prove a point.

People say that it is illegal to graffiti, but we live in America which is a free country. We should be able to express emotion! For example one of our rights is the freedom of speech (freedom of expression).

Lots of people say graffiti is not real art work because it isn't on a canvas, but just because it's not on canvas doesn't mean it's not real art. For example some of the most famous art is not on a canvas like the famous painting that was done on the ceiling.

😊 That is why I think you shouldn't approve that it is ok to paint over the graffiti. It is artwork + and you don't destroy artwork.

Sincerely,
Gracie Gilpin



This wall, in Queens in New York City, was part of 5 Pointz before the building owner painted over the graffiti.

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Is Graffiti Art?

Some people think it's beautiful. Others say it's a crime.

A group of abandoned buildings in New York City used to be a swirl of color. It was called "5 Pointz." People went there for years to spray paint graffiti on the walls. The buildings' owner, Jerry Wolkoff, allowed the graffiti. But in November, he decided to paint over it. He plans to tear down the buildings.

"I could not believe it," says Evan Grey, 14, who often painted at 5 Pointz. "Why would anyone destroy so much art?"

Evan and many others say that graffiti is a true and valuable art form. "Just because

it's not on canvas, that doesn't mean it is not art," states Evan. But while Wolkoff says he respects graffiti, he doesn't think he did anything wrong. He points out that people who make graffiti paint over others' work all the time.

Other people say that graffiti isn't really art anyway. They note that violent gangs often use graffiti to mark their territory and that most graffiti is done without permission. It is illegal, hurts the value of property belonging to others, and is expensive to remove.

READ BOTH SIDES OF THE DEBATE AND DECIDE.

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YES

Graffiti is art. Here's why:

-
-
-

NO

Graffiti is not art. Here's why:

-
-
-

Central argument: is graffiti art?

Yes - NO

EX

• People graffiti to make points about things.

• graffiti is used to express emotion

• Violent gangs often use graffiti to mark their territory

• We live in America which is a free country.

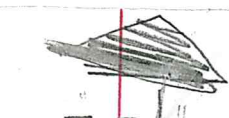
• It is illegal to graffiti.

EX

• One of our rights is the freedom of speech. (freedom of expression)

• people who make graffiti point over others hard work and time.

• ~~Just because its graffiti doesn't mean it is art.~~



• ~~Light graffiti call famous morals~~

• ~~Just because its graffiti doesn't mean it is art.~~

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Who - New York Planning Commission

Why - to stop them from painting
over the graffiti,
format - letter