What is Graffiti?
As defined by Merriam Webster, graffiti is usually unauthorized writing or drawing on a public surface.
Graffiti generates fear of neighborhood crime. It is destructive by lowering property value and it is against the law!
There are two basic types of graffiti:
- tagger
- gang-related
There are four motivating factors for graffiti vandalism:
- fame
- rebellion
- self-expression
- power
A “tag” is the most basic of graffiti. It normally is a name in either spray paint or marker. A graffiti writer’s tag is his/her personalized signature.
Another form is the ‘throw-up’ or “fill-in.” This type is painted very quickly with two or three colors, sacrificing aesthetics for speed. Throw-ups can also be outlined on a surface with one color.
A “piece” is a more elaborate style of graffiti. It incorporates more stylized “block” or “bubble” letters with three or more colors. This type of graffiti takes more time and increases the vandals’ chances of getting caught.
Graffiti itself is not a crime unless it is on public or private property without the consent of the owner.

Types of Graffiti

Tagger Graffiti
Tagger graffiti represents the majority of the graffiti on our streets today. It rarely has anything to do with gangs. It is painted by individuals as a way for them to express themselves. Taggers are usually male, between the ages of ten and the late twenties. They are from all social, racial and economical classes. Taggers may not even live in the same community in which they tag. Taggers justify what they do by calling their graffiti art.

Gang Graffiti
Gang members use graffiti to:
- communicate with each other
- establish identity
- issue threats/challenges
- show disrespect to other gangs
- mark the boundaries of their territory
- proclaim their violence
- recognize a fallen gang member (RIP wall)

Gang graffiti is known as the street’s newspaper or bulletin board. It is how gangs communicate messages, including challenges, warnings, and announces deeds accomplished or provides warnings of what is about to occur. To understand gang graffiti, you would need to be familiar with the different gang symbols and colors.

Graffiti’s Three R’s

- **Report it!**
  Notify Facilities Management
  Notify Police
- **Record it!**
  Take Photograph
  Prepare REDII Incident Report
  Prepare Gang Worksheet (if gang related)
- **Remove it!**
  DO NOT CROSS IT OUT!

Superintendent of Schools
Dr. LaTanya D. McDade

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  - Section 504 Compliance (Students): Director of Special Education • 703-791-7287
  - Title IX Compliance: Title IX Coordinator and Student Equity Office • 703-791-8595
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA): FERPA Officer • 703-791-7445

May 2022

Understanding Graffiti

Prince William County Public Schools
Risk Management & Security Services
P.O. Box 389
Manassas, VA 20108
703-791-7206
Sample of Graffiti Types

Gang Graffiti

Roll Call

Tagging

Threats

RIP Wall

Unity

Interpretation

It should be understood that gangs may adopt other types of graffiti or make up their own. This illustrates the importance of developing local intelligence about groups by exercising cooperation among law enforcement officials, school authorities, and the general public.

18th Street

187: CA Penal Code for Murder
Slobb: Derogatory Name for Blood
187 Slobb: Blood Killer

202

D.C. Area Code
202 South Boys (Drug Dealing Group)
202 Westside Boys (Bloods)

BLOODS

M.O.B.: Member of Blood

People Nation

Five-Pointed Star (Points represent: Love, Trust, Peace, Freedom & Love)

CRIPS

The #6 and the six-point star are Folk Nation symbols. Six-Pointed Star (Points Represent: Life, Love, Loyalty, Knowledge, Understanding & Wisdom)

Gangster Disciples (GD) & Crips

Seven for the seventh letter in alphabet, which is G, and stands for Gangster; 4 for the forth letter in alphabet, which is D, and stands for Disciples; 74 means GD

Pitch Fork & Six-Point Star are Folk Nation Symbols

Eight Ball in a Circle means an alliance between the CRIPS and GANGSTER DISCIPLES (GD)

Folk Nation

Six-Pointed Star (Points Represent: Life, Love, Loyalty, Knowledge, Understanding & Wisdom)

Gangster Disciples (GD) & Crips

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Eight Ball in a Circle means an alliance between the CRIPS and GANGSTER DISCIPLES (GD)

Latin Homiez

The pitch fork upside down (↑) is to disrespect the Folk Nation.
A: Almighty
L: Latin
K: King
Q: Queen
N: Nation

Latin Kings

MS13

CLS: Centrales Locos Salvatrucha
VLS: VA Locos Salvatrucha
ULS: United Locos Salvatrucha

: La Vida Loca
- hospital
- prison
- cemetery

MS13 & 18th Street

MS13 Hand Sign
CLCS: Coronado Latin Cyco Style

MS13 & 18th Street graffiti showing disrespect for each other (crossing out of gang symbols)

CLS: Centrales Locos Salvatrucha
ULS: United Locos Salvatrucha
NLS Normady Los Salvatrucha

SSL-13 (South Side Locos)

The #6 and the six-point star are Folk Nation symbols. Six-Pointed Star (Points Represent: Life, Love, Loyalty, Knowledge, Understanding & Wisdom)

Eight Ball in a Circle means an alliance between the CRIPS and GANGSTER DISCIPLES (GD)