

## GRAFFITI HURTS

I drive down the streets of the one and only beautiful Denver. Many people of the city could care less about how they are being exceedingly disrespectful. It is almost as if it is their city and it is to be treated unfairly and poor. They do not honor the simple wish of a clean harmless city. On many sides of buildings I see signs of gangs marking their areas. I see repulsive, unpleasant graffiti on my charming wall of Denver. It shows ignorance and disrespect for what the people of our city have done to our city. This is a city of amazing people and people that have made unsuitable actions. These actions may be to disrespectfully spray on the walls of our sublime city. I feel very unsatisfied of the actions of some of the people of my city. I feel very depressed knowing that the example these people put in front of me. I feel as if the citizens of Denver think the city will clean it up for them. It breaks my heart knowing that is so easy for these people to trash our city. They will think it is okay to slowly make Denver a less appealing city. It shows the amount of meager quality the people of the city have in respect.

There are many things I can do for my city. Such as, getting free paint from the city of Denver and painting over the graffiti left on the walls. I also can wash away the unwanted, unkind, wording on the walls of my beautiful city. As a city we may also make an effort to educate people my age. We could inform them on how many bad people start off with doing something as harmless as graffiti. I would paint over the graffiti. It would give me an amazing sense of accomplishment. It would be nice if more people would make an effort to "Keep Denver Beautiful."

Denver is an amazing city. It has very amazing qualities. Unfortunately it is covered in unappreciated graffiti. Many people could care less but to me it matters. I want to keep Denver beautiful. Graffiti is a heartbreak but instead of watching it be made we as a city should concentrate on cleaning up the city. Kids of the city should all join and make Denver cleaner by respectfully painting over graffiti.



Keep Denver Beautiful 2009 - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Essay

Amy Eral

Teacher - Mrs. Hanna



# A More Beautiful Denver

By Adrian Ocampo

Have you ever wondered why people graffiti our city? When I see graffiti on signs and buildings I can't help but wonder why people would want to do this to our city. I get a bad feeling in my stomach because I don't like how it ruins the city. In order to solve this problem I would volunteer, start an organization, and help our city get money to get rid of graffiti.

First, I would volunteer by helping to clean up graffiti. I would help to clean up the street signs, buildings, and bridges. This would be possible for me to do on weekends and in the summers. My family and friends could also join me in cleaning up graffiti in Denver. We would clean up Denver until there was no more graffiti to clean up anymore.

Raising money to help buy supplies to clean up graffiti is another way I would help to solve this problem. I could raise money by selling things like food or candies. The money would be used to buy soap, paint, and paint brushes. These supplies would help the volunteers and me to keep on cleaning up Denver.

Finally, I would start an organization. This organization would help stop graffiti from happening. I would get high school students to go to elementary and middle schools and talk to them about how graffiti hurts Denver. These students would encourage the younger ones not to graffiti and take them into the community to help clean up some graffiti. The younger students would learn that graffiti is hard work to clean up and that it is wrong to do.

By doing all this we could get graffiti from happening. People who graffiti would understand that it makes our city look ugly and people don't like it because others have to clean up after them. Until that happens we have help solve this problem so that everyone can see how beautiful Denver is.



Keep Denver Beautiful 2009 - 2nd Place Essay

Adrian Ocampo

Teacher - Ms. Ramirez



# Keep Denver Beautiful

By Monica Cardoza

As I step out of my house I see graffiti on my garage. When we drive I see graffiti on stores and on some schools. Seeing graffiti makes me feel angry and bad for the community because they have to see it and clean it up. Also the community has to pay to have it removed. To help keep Denver graffiti free I would create an organization that goes to Denver schools and talks about how graffiti affects our community. I would tell students why graffiti is bad for our community.

First, I would tell them that graffiti is a bad influence for kids. When kids see graffiti they'll think it is cool. Kids won't think that there is anything wrong with graffiti. Another example is that graffiti shows kids bad things. It shows them gang signs and sometimes bad words. Kids will think that gangs and bad word are cool also.

I would also tell them that the community has to pay to have the graffiti removed. It costs money to buy supplies like paint and brushes. We will also have to pay someone to remove it. Money shouldn't be wasted on graffiti. Instead it could be used on schools, shelter, or something else that helps the community. There are many other positive ways that the money could be spent.

Finally, I would tell them it makes our city look like an ugly city. Graffiti make Denver look like a bad city to live in. It makes a place look dangerous and people don't want to live there. People will think that it is filled with gangs. Graffiti also make our city look like a dump because it looks dirty. This makes our city look like no one takes care of our community.

My organization would get kids motivated not to graffiti. We would take the students out into the community and help clean up the graffiti. This would help kids see and understand why it is important to keep Denver Beautiful.



Keep Denver Beautiful 2009 - 3rd Place Essay

Monica Cardoza

Teacher - Ms. Ramirez



Natalia Ruiz Gonzalez,  
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### *GRAFFITI*

Graffiti is the words, colors, shapes drawn or scratched on buildings.

First I see four types of graffiti near our school and in our neighborhood some are generic, hip-hop and the biggest one is gang.

Second ,when I see all this graffiti I feel insecure because they is a lot of illegal activities going on because gang is associated with drugs and I wonder one day I will be shoot by a gang member. Also I feel sad because these are my brothers and sister who trying to be famous on the wrong way or they got on the peer groups and they following what others are doing. I feel sorry for my parents because graffiti is very expensive to remove and sometimes we don't have even enough food to eat so they wonder do they remove graffiti or buy food.

Third I would love to change the way people feel about graffiti. First I will form a club of graffiti free. All the kids who are interested will register yearly and then we use that money to paint our neighborhood and restore it on top of that we will have dances for kids to express themselves through dance and art. Second I will invite experts through our teacher to come talk to us as school about how much graffiti hurts our community. I will ask volunteers to adopt a place in the community to keep it clean. I will organize cleans up every other Saturday. I will organize big events like walk to Denver and invite other schools to join us to clean up Denver.



Keep Denver Beautiful 2009 - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Essay

Natalia Ruiz Gonzalez      Teacher - Ms. Mathoka



## Keep Denver Beautiful

Graffiti in my neighborhood makes me feel ashamed of the community, as though nobody cares about how they appear or behave. Graffiti in the school or the neighborhood makes me feel uneducated, disgraced, unappreciated, and disrespected. Seeing my community with graffiti all over makes me feel as if we are the lowest of the low the ones no one would ever like to meet. Graffiti in the community makes me feel as if we are polluting the neighborhood with the writings and symbols. The graffiti in my school, neighborhood and the community makes me feel like we are dangerous violent people or that we are viewed as that kind. It makes me feel like I live in the ghetto, and in my opinion, no one would ever want to live in that type of environment. Graffiti in my community makes me feel like this part of the world is and forever will be dangerous and it will continue to progress and progress until we are considered the most horrific people on earth. All in all, graffiti in my community makes me feel as if the whole world pity's us and sees us as sad helpless people.

In order to keep Denver graffiti free I would suggest banning gangsters or others that create graffiti from the city, perhaps that would be a little to overboard. Making gangster or gang banging illegal perhaps would be better. To help keep Denver free of graffiti I would make spray paint illegal for people under 21, although I doubt this would work so I would make the group or the one's who create graffiti and younger to go in earlier and not to be allowed to walk in alleys, for this is where almost all graffiti is done. To remove graffiti from the city I would gather a whole cluster of people and go throughout the city of Denver repainting or if possible erase all the traces of graffiti. That way it would be a new start to keep Denver Beautiful.



## Graffiti

My dear community I am here to inform you that there has been lots of graffiti on walls, windows, houses, and even on cars. I understand that some people and teenager count graffiti as art but it is destroying our city. If your child is one of those people, please talk to them and tell them that drawing on peoples property is bad and they can get in big trouble if they get caught. If your child doesn't listen to you, then ground them or they will get arrested! Graffiti is destroying our city, and I feel mad and sad when I see teenagers drawing graffiti in our city. On Monday January 7, we are having a clean up day so Parents and Guardians you can help us clean up our city because we want our city to be clean and peaceful. Also if your are one of the graffitiers, then I ask you with my heart to stop drawing on peoples property and I know you think graffiti is art but please draw on a paper or poster but not on peoples property. I am also here to inform you that there were some students

doing graffiti on their lockers. Graffiti is bad and harmful because some students write stuff that other people don't like to see and it hurts their feelings. Teachers try their best to catch some of the students that draw in the school and those students get in trouble and the teachers take their spray paint so they can't do anymore graffiti. Parents, if your children ask for money, don't give it to them because they buy paints and Sharpies.

Thank you for reading this letter. Sincerely  
an angry student who wants graffiti to stop.

Arslan Akhmedov  
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