

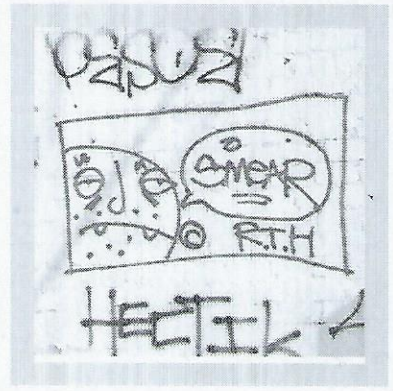
Name _____

Date _____

A Letter Concerning Graffiti

I am writing in response to the article 'Protecting Our Public Spaces' in issue 14, published this spring. In it, the author claims that 'all graffiti is vandalism, pure and simple, and offers no benefit to our public spaces.

I would like to point out that many people believe that graffiti is an art form that can benefit our public spaces just as much as sculpture, fountains, or other, more accepted art forms. Spray paint is a medium unlike any other. People who object to graffiti usually do so more because of where it is, not what it is.



To be clear, I do not consider random words or names sprayed on stop signs to be art. Plenty of graffiti is just vandalism, pure and simple. However, there is also graffiti that is breathtaking in its intricate detail, its realism, or its creativity. It takes great talent to create such involved designs with spray paint. Are these creators not artists just because they use a can of spray paint instead of a paintbrush, or because they cover the side of a building rather than a canvas?

To declare that all graffiti is vandalism, and nothing more, is an overly simplistic statement that I find out of place in such a thoughtful publication as your magazine. Furthermore, graffiti is not going anywhere, so we might as well find a way to live with it and enjoy its benefits. One option could be to make a percentage of public space, such as walls or benches in parks, open to graffiti artists. By doing this, the public might feel like part owners of these works of art, rather than just the victims of a crime.

Regards,
Derrick Milton

- 1) In his letter, Derrick Milton argues that graffiti
 - A. is the only art form that is free
 - B. provides more public benefits than sculpture or fountains do
 - C. is best viewed on public walls rather than canvas
 - D. should be judged on its artistic qualities rather than its location

- 2) Based on information in the passage, it can be understood that the author of the article "Protecting Our Public Spaces" apparently believes that graffiti
 - A. is not an art form
 - B. can only sometimes be considered a work of art

- C. should be restricted to places where it is allowed
- D. is too simple to be considered art

3) According to Derrick Milton, random words sprayed on stop signs should not be considered

- A. vandalism
- B. art
- C. illegal
- D. creative

4) As used in paragraph 3, the word **intricate** most nearly means

- A. crazy
- B. colorful
- C. careless
- D. complex

5) Which sentence from the passage best illustrates the author's feelings about graffiti art?

- A. "I would like to point out that many people believe that graffiti is an art form that can benefit our public spaces just as much as sculpture, fountains, or other, more accepted art forms."
- B. "People who object to graffiti usually do so more because of where it is, not what it is."
- C. "Spray paint is a medium unlike any other."
- D. "To declare that all graffiti is vandalism, and nothing more, is an overly simplistic statement that I find out of place in such a thoughtful publication as your magazine."

6) Derrick Milton concludes his letter by

- A. criticizing the magazine
- B. offering a solution
- C. restating his position
- D. identifying the benefits of graffiti

7) Do you agree with the author's overall argument? Why or why not?
