

Get a Clue About Graffiti

Use this vocabulary game to introduce graffiti terms and build understanding about the impact of graffiti vandalism on communities.

OBJECTIVES

Introduce the terms and issues surrounding graffiti vandalism.

METHOD

Students compete in two teams and use clues to help one person on the team guess the correct vocabulary word.

MATERIALS

Blackboard, whiteboard, or paper and wide-tip marker

VOCABULARY

Following are vocabulary words to get you started. Work with students to expand this list.

Art	private property
attitude	public property
cleanup	removal
community	respect
fame	responsibility
graffiti	restitution
illegal	self-expression
mural	tagger
ownership	taxpayer
paint-out	vandal
permission	vandalism

PROCEDURE

1. Divide classroom or group into two teams.
2. Have one person from each team sit in a chair facing their team members.
3. Teacher or leader writes a vocabulary word on a blackboard, whiteboard, or paper with wide-tipped marker. The team member whose turn it is to guess the word has his/her back to the blackboard so that he/she cannot see the word.
4. Team one sits or stands in order and begins with the first person giving a clue to their seated team member (on the next round, the second person in line gives a clue, and so on).
5. Students give a one word clue to make the person in the chair say the vocabulary word. For example, if the word is "graffiti," the team member might say as a clue, "vandalism." The person in the chair answers, "crime". This is wrong, so they lose their chance at 5 points. Then it goes to the other team to try.
6. The leader now turns to the other team and says, "for 4 points, a one-word clue to make your team member say the correct word."
7. If the team gets it right, they score 4 points; otherwise it goes back to the first team for 3 points. And the second student in line gives the clue.

ASSESSMENT

- Select three or more of the vocabulary words. Have students spell each word correctly and use it properly in a sentence that discloses the meaning of the word.
- Repeat this vocabulary exercise following the completion of other lessons from the Graffiti Hurts® curriculum (available at www.graffitihurts.org). See how much more quickly students can guess the vocabulary words. Consider using a timer to increase the level of play.

ENRICHMENT

- Create a vocabulary bank. Have students identify and then defend adding new vocabulary words to the game.
- Using the Graffiti Hurts® web site as a resource (www.graffitihurts.org), have students identify additional graffiti vocabulary terms and their meanings.
- Keep track of student “clues” while playing the game. Then have students explain and defend the clues they gave to help them examine their attitudes and think more deeply about graffiti vandalism and how it affects the community.