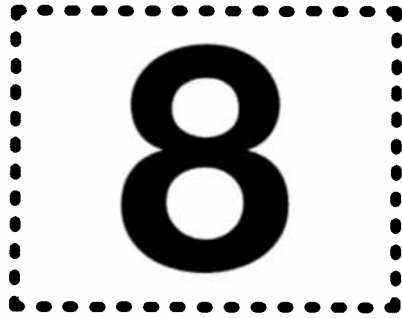
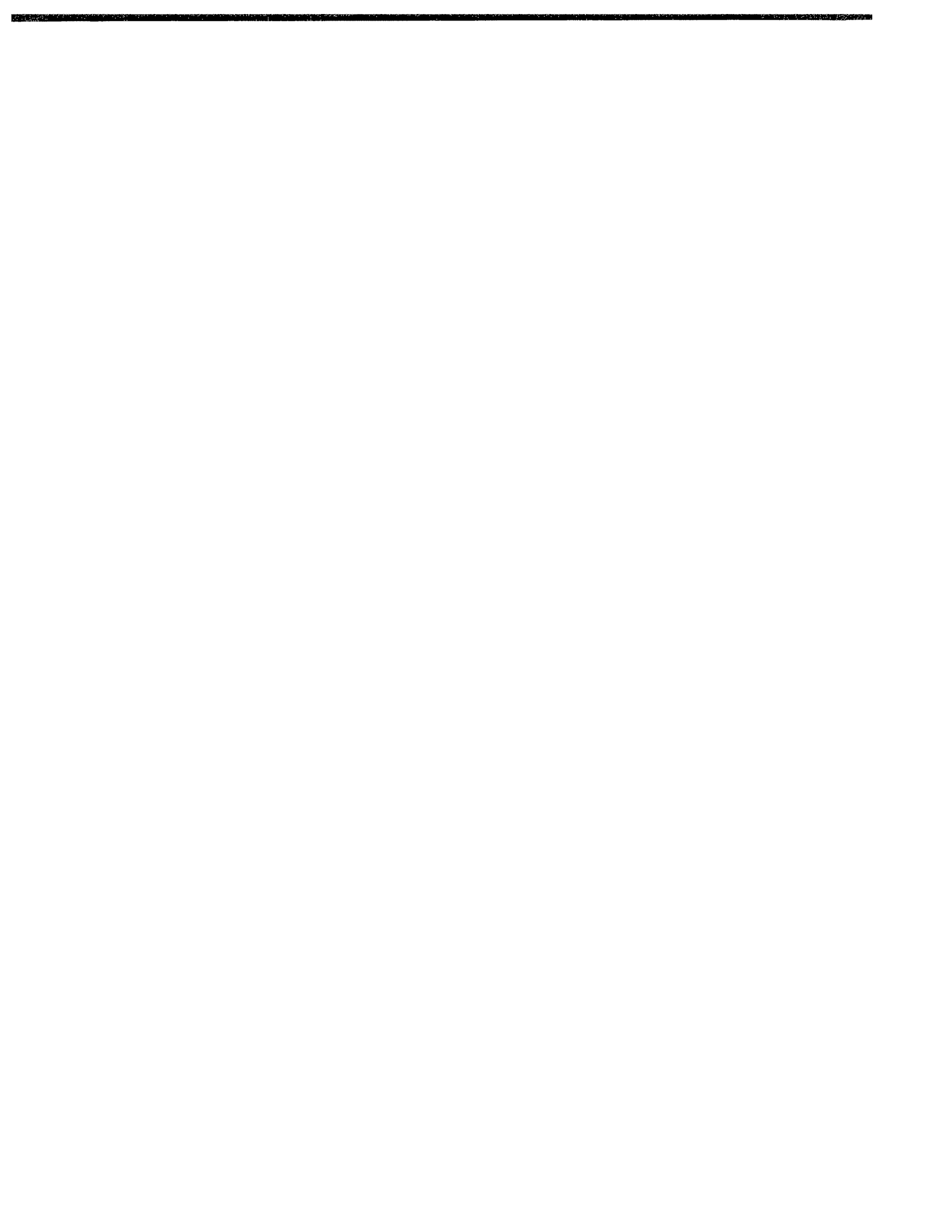


ENG4C-A



**Who Are the Criminals?**



# Introduction

In this lesson, you will look at some special kinds of criminals—gangsters, youthful criminals, and serial killers. The focus will be on three things:

1. How they become criminals
2. How the media affects people's reactions to them
3. What people can do about them

## What You Will Learn

After completing this lesson, you will be able to

- read critically
- compare ideas, values, and perspectives in texts about criminals
- take notes effectively
- analyze and report on the use of camera techniques, sound, and lighting in a television show
- analyze ideas, characters, and social messages in a television show
- write an opinion piece
- use new vocabulary appropriately
- edit and proofread your writing for spelling and grammatical correctness

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# Why Some and Not Others?

What causes some people, but not others, to become criminals? Naturally, there are lots of theories.

One theory is that some people are born with a criminal nature. If so, what is that nature? Are criminals characterized by violent aggressiveness, a missing conscience, exaggerated appetites, or a lack of empathy or self-control? Can you recognize a person's criminal nature by looking for particular physical characteristics, facial expressions, or characteristic actions?

Another theory is that no one is born a criminal, but that some people become criminals as they grow up. What experiences would tend to turn someone into a criminal? Should you look at the criminal's immediate family and friends, or should you look at broader social conditions?

Still another theory is a combination of the first two. According to this theory, personal and social pressures do matter, but so does the nature of the individual. This theory holds that although life may present some people with more difficult pressures and temptations than others, it is also true that some individuals are better able to resist temptation or pressure than others. Crime, then, results from a combination of unfortunate circumstances and a weaker personality.

Whichever theory one holds about crime, and whatever answers one gives to the questions raised by each theory, the big question remains: Can crime be prevented, or at least reduced, if we can understand why some people become criminals? The following article gives a brief survey of what people have thought over the course of time about what makes some people criminals.

## **Bad to the bone (excerpted)**

**by Mark Gado**

... In Medieval times, it was thought that demons and evil spirits of all types and forms took possession of the individual causing him or her to do bad things....

... As quickly as some theories appeared, they vanished. Criminological theories have gone through an evolutionary process that still continues today. For what seemed like a valid explanation during one era, bordered on the verge of madness the next. And there is probably no other aspect of social science that is so permeated with superstition, quackery, sensationalism and outright fraud as crime theory....

The first organized scientific search for the causes of crime came to be known as the classical school. Theorists proposed that people are rational thinking beings and therefore their behavior is the result of a logical thought process....

... Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832) ... assumed that people commit crime because the benefit outweighed the cost.... Bentham called this thought process the “hedonistic calculus.” He concluded that for people not to commit crime, the punishment had to outweigh the benefit derived from the criminal act....

Biological theories of crime causation, most of which were formulated during the 19th century, assumed crime was caused by inherited factors....

Studies of criminal families, like the Jukes and the Kallikaks, captured the imagination of the public who began to believe that there could be a “criminal” gene that was being passed from one generation to the next....

... Do our bodies predispose us to a predictable behavioral pattern?...

... The differences between male and female murderers are many. A recent study revealed that female serial killers were older than their male counterparts and were more likely to be drug abusers and alcoholics.... Female serial killers usually poisoned or smothered their victims who were previously known to them. Men usually stalked their prey while women, like Aileen Wournos and Louise Peete, who may have killed six men, most often lured victims to their deaths. In another study of 14 female killers, all were found to have suffered from abusive relationships in dysfunctional families, almost a trademark of all female killers....

Brain irregularities or physical trauma, such as head injury, may also play a role in criminality.... On August 1, 1966, a distraught Charles Whitman, 24, climbed to the top of a 307-foot observation tower at the University of Texas in Austin.... For nearly two hours, using a high-powered rifle, he randomly shot 48 people, killing 18. The day before, he left a note that read: "After my death, I wish an autopsy on me to be performed to see if there is any mental disorder." During the postmortem exam, doctors discovered that Whitman had a severe brain tumor. But whether it had been the cause of Whitman's murderous rampage was never proven....

The psychopath, also called a sociopath, is a personality that is characterized by cruelty, egotism, impulsive conduct and no remorse for his or her actions. Other traits include selfishness and an inability to give love and affection to others. True loyalty, warmth and compassion are foreign to psychopaths and they usually do not respond to acts of kindness. They have a remarkable disregard for truth and often become pathological or compulsive liars. Antisocial personalities usually do not perceive their behavior as dysfunctional because they see themselves as normal and often feel persecuted by society. They do not anticipate personal consequences and, even under high-pressure conditions, they remain cool and calm in their demeanor. They have been called moral idiots and their conduct is usually motivated

by an excessive physiological need for thrills and excitement. O.J. Simpson has been described as a sociopathic personality. So [have] Ted Bundy, Charles Manson and Captain Jeffrey McDonald, the Green Beret doctor who murdered his family in 1970. Studies indicate that 3% of the male population may have an antisocial personality (Encarta '99). Psychopaths frequently violate the rights of others and as such, they usually come into contact with the police. They will continue their criminal careers throughout their lives, unlike other criminals who usually burn out as they get older. Ultimately, psychopaths frequently wind up in jail or prison. It has been estimated that as much as 30% of the prison population can be classified as sociopathic....

Robert Merton, a disciple of Durkheim, said criminal acts were the result of socially created behaviour ... Merton said that society offers the same goals and rewards to all its citizens. But the means and opportunity to reach these goals are not the same ... People will commit crimes because they feel cheated out of something to which they were entitled.

... Sociologist Edwin Sutherland said that people will learn how to commit crimes primarily through close interaction with other groups like themselves. They not only learn how but also develop the attitudes and rationalization to support it.... Corporate criminals see their activities as “business” or “profit-taking.” Their motives are often reinforced by the notion that “everyone does it.” ...

... White-collar criminals often cite a powerful peer pressure to maintain their current lifestyle as a factor in their criminality. Others say that they are simply pursuing a sort of twisted image of the American Dream: the attainment of material wealth at any cost....

During the 20th century, a more diversified and imaginative set of crime theories appeared. These concepts highlighted the role of DNA, nutrition, body chemistry and even ecological factors in criminal behavior. One of these theories was the extra chromosome theory, which became popular in the

1960s and was made famous by several high-profile criminal cases in which the defendant was said to have an extra Y chromosome.

When human chromosomes are examined under an electron microscope each gender has a distinctive pattern. Females have a “XX” pattern and a typical male possesses a configuration that appears to be “XY”. In the early 1960s, a researcher discovered that men who had a chromosome pattern of “XYY” were much more prevalent in prisons than in the general populations. These individuals were called “supermales” and were characterized as overly aggressive, hostile and more prone to deviant behavior. The most notorious of these supposed “supermales” was the demented killer of eight nurses in Chicago in 1966 named Richard Speck. It was believed, and highly publicized, that Speck possessed the dreaded extra “Y” chromosome. Years later, it was discovered that Speck did not have the pattern and the “XYY” theory eventually fell into disrepute almost as fast as it became popular.

Nutritional factors were also suspected of having unpredictable effects on the human brain. One of the earliest studies that investigated the link between behavior and diet was completed in 1943. This research found a correlation between low blood sugar and murder. It was said that low blood sugar lowered the ability of the mind to make rational decisions. In recent years, allergic reactions to food have also been used to explain criminal behavior....

... Research has also confirmed that adjusting the diet of convicts in a controlled setting was more effective than other methods in order to reduce aggression (Vito and Holmes). But not everyone is convinced. The American Dietetic Association has taken the official stance that there is no solid scientific evidence in existence that demonstrates a relationship between diet and crime....

... Whether the cause is demons, bumps on the head, genetics, DNA, food allergies, phases of the moon, brain injury or a package of Twinkies, crime is much too diversified to be neatly packaged under one heading.... No single cause can account for all types of criminal behavior. Theorists today generally agree that it is a blending of many factors, such as environment, hereditary considerations and psychological development that form the need to commit crime. But that doesn't stop criminologists and scientists from introducing new theories of crime causation whenever possible.



**Support Question**  
(do not send in for evaluation)

7. Try writing point-form notes for the article you have just read. Make a separate note for each theory, keeping it as short as possible. Then, indicate the degree to which the theory is supported or debunked by the article. (Sometimes the article does neither, but merely reports the theory.)

**There are Suggested Answers to Support Questions at the end of this unit.**

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## Gangsters

Although in real life they cause suffering and distress, outlaws and gangsters are often portrayed in fiction as romantic figures, exhibiting brotherhood, strong family ties, heroic individualism, and brave risk-taking. Despite gangsters' bad ways, they often spoke plainly and directly in real life. Take a look at the following quotes from real gangsters. One can appreciate their directness without approving of their murderous ways.

### Gangster sayings

#### The Gangster & Mafia Webring

- “Me I never had the chance to say, Well, I’m going to do something I want to do. I always did it for my family, for my children, for my father, for my mother.” —Tommy Gambino
- “Mafia is a process, not a thing. Mafia is a form of clan-cooperation to which its individual members pledge lifelong loyalty.... Friendship, connections, family ties, trust, loyalty, obedience—this was the glue that held us together.” —Joe Bonanno
- “We’re not children here. The law is—how should I put it? A convenience. Or a convenience for some people, and an inconvenience for other people. Like, take the law that says you can’t go into someone else’s house ... I have a house, so, hey, I like that law. The guy without a house—what’s he think of it? Stay out in the rain, schnook. That’s what the law means to him ...” —Paul Castellano
- “There’s no such thing as good money or bad money. There’s just money” —Charlie “Lucky” Luciano
- “Behind every great fortune, there is a crime!” —Charlie “Lucky” Luciano
- “Honest people have no ethics.” —Sam DeCavalcante

- “Don’t worry, don’t worry. Look at the Astors and the Vanderbilts, all those big society people. They were the worst thieves—and now look at them. It’s just a matter of time.”—Meyer Lansky
- “This American system of ours, call it Americanism, call it capitalism, call it what you will, gives each and every one of us a great opportunity if we seize it with both hands and make the most of it.”—Al Capone
- “You can get a lot more done with a kind word and a gun, than with a kind word alone.”  
—Al Capone
- “You will put the garbage in the cans and make certain that the cans are covered. We got to keep our own backyard clean.”—John Gotti
- “I never lie to any man because I don’t fear anyone. The only time you lie is when you are afraid.”—John Gotti
- “Don’t lie. Tell one lie, then you gotta tell another lie to compound on the first.”—Meyer Lansky
- “Never open your mouth, unless you’re in the dentist chair.”—Sammy “The Bull” Gravano
- “I never killed a guy who didn’t deserve it.”  
—Mickey Cohen
- “Goodfellas don’t sue goodfellas, Goodfellas kill goodfellas.”—Profaci
- “Murders came with smiles, shooting people was no big deal for us Goodfellas.”—Henry Hill

In the 1930s, the Great Depression made life pretty miserable for most people. The collapse of the economy made people feel helpless in the grip of large, impersonal forces that they could not understand. The gangsters of that time seemed like heroes, fighting back and taking their lives into their own hands. It was the age of Al Capone, George “Machine Gun” Kelly, Bonnie and Clyde, and many more famous names.



**Support Question**  
(do not send in for evaluation)

8. Watch a video or DVD portraying gangster life. *Bonnie and Clyde*, *Mean Streets*, *Married to the Mob*, *Goodfellas*, *Road to Perdition*, or part or all of *The Godfather* trilogy would be appropriate. Then answer the following questions about the movie you chose.
- a) What are the values of gangster society as portrayed in the film?
  - b) To what extent do the main characters in the film live up to their own values?
  - c) Compare the gangster society in the film to society at large, noting both similarities and differences. Consider these areas while doing your comparison:
    - i) social organization
    - ii) the degree of personal freedom
    - iii) opportunities for personal advancement
    - iv) material gratification
    - v) emotional gratification
    - vi) honesty
    - vii) security
  - d) What attitude does the film lead you to have about gangster society? (Be careful here—the film is almost certainly not aiming for a simple “love it” or “hate it” attitude. It is entirely possible to be attracted and repelled by something at the same time.)
-

## Gangs in Canada

Gangs in Canada, such as the Boyd Gang and the Stopwatch Gang, have elicited some of the same fascination as gangs in the United States have done. In Canada, the more fascinating criminals seem to be the clever ones who show finesse, rather than those in youth or motorcycle gangs.

Read the following articles carefully.

### The Boyd gang

by Lloyd Cully



Dashing, daring and flamboyant, Edwin Alonzo Boyd and his gang burst onto the front pages of Toronto newspapers due to a series of well-executed bank robberies and two breakouts from Toronto's infamous Don Jail. Boyd's swashbuckling style of hopping bank counters and lightning fast stick-ups electrified Toronto residents. Although their reign as Canada's most notorious crooks was relatively short, a mere 10 months for the actual gang, their escapades were the stuff that legends are made of. These guys were damn near local heroes until two of the members shot down two detectives in cold blood, killing one. The gang consisted of four members, Edwin Boyd, Willie Jackson, Lennie Jackson and Steve Suchan. The two Jacksons were not related.

Boyd robbed his first bank in September of 1949. He plastered his face with makeup and stuffed his cheeks with cotton to disguise his appearance. He escaped

with the loot even though the bank manager emptied his revolver at the fleeing robber. Boyd decided to see just how well his disguise had worked, so a day or two later, bold as brass, he walked into the same bank and changed a twenty dollar bill with the teller he'd robbed. He wasn't recognized, so he decided to hone his skills and become a full-time bank robber.

Boyd continued robbing banks, sometimes with his ex-jailguard partner, Howard Gault, sometimes solo. His solo efforts were not always successful. At one stickup the bank manager grabbed a gun from a desk drawer and popped off a few rounds at Boyd who returned fire with a couple of slugs himself. He had no choice but to turn tail and run, but this time without the loot. Another time, Boyd was chased in his stolen car by a bank employee, just barely escaping.

Finally his luck ran out. On his last attempt with Gault, everything went wrong, and even though Boyd got away, Gault didn't. Gault broke down under police questioning and spilled the beans. Soon the two of them were comfortably behind the soft iron bars of the Don Jail.

During this time there was another gang pulling off bank jobs in and around the city. They were more violent and carried heavy arms, including a sub-machine gun. They sometimes clubbed a bank employee over the head or fired their guns into the wall to get their point across. Two of the members of this gang were Steve Suchan, real name Valent Lesso, and Lennie Jackson. Suchan had avoided capture but Jackson wasn't so lucky.

Steve Suchan was a multi-talented musician and probably the least likely bank robber in the history of Toronto. However, when he discovered he couldn't make a decent living as a violinist, he traded his violin in for a handgun at a pawn shop.

Lennie had had an accident while trying to hop a freight train some time earlier and now walked on a wooden foot. He had been working at a local bar

where many of Toronto's more successful crooks hung out. He liked the cars these guys pulled up in and he liked the large amounts of cash they spread around even better. It didn't take Lennie long to make a career change and throw in with them. But, unfortunately for Lennie, he had been picked up by the police with some incriminating evidence and was lodged in the Don Jail when Boyd arrived.

Boyd ended up in the same area as Lennie and soon the two were comparing notes. Not long after this, another career criminal came into the cellblock. He was born just across the Don River in the tough Toronto neighbourhood of Cabbagetown. His name was Willie Jackson and he had a long history of violent robberies in his resume. Willie was a joker and prankster and quickly became friends with the other two. He was also awaiting transfer to Kingston Penitentiary to serve seven years for robbery with violence.

Not only did Lennie's wooden foot help him to walk upright, but it also came in handy to hide things, like hacksaw blades. So Lennie whipped out the blades and the three proceeded to saw the bars from the window leading outside. On November 4, 1951, the three slid through the opening and dropped to the prisoner's exercise yard below. Using some bedsheets that they had tied together, they then lassoed the top of the surrounding wall and climbed to freedom.

Steve Suchan had arranged a safe house in Cabbagetown that they could get to quickly and organize themselves. Later, Lennie Jackson and his girlfriend, Ann Roberts took off for Montreal with Suchan close behind. Boyd and Willie landed at Steve Suchan's parents' house in the west end.

Realizing they would need money to keep in hiding for a while, they robbed a nearby bank. A couple of weeks later they pulled off the biggest holdup in Toronto's history. After splitting up the money, Lennie and Suchan headed back to Montreal to lay low. Boyd and Willie hid out at Suchan's parents' home.

Steve Suchan's father came up with a great idea. He had a little hiding spot in the wall where the boys could safely stash their money. The next morning the old man was gone and so was most of the loot. The whole gang then headed down to Montreal to hide out with wives and girlfriends in tow. Willie Jackson got busted for carrying a gun and was soon returned to Toronto where he received an additional two years for escaping custody. The rest of the gang also came back to Toronto, but under their own steam.

On March 6, 1952, Detectives Edmund Tong and Roy Perry pulled over a black Mercury Monarch automobile. It's unlikely that Tong knew the car contained Suchan and Lennie Jackson or he may have had his revolver at the ready. As Tong approached the suspect vehicle, he was gunned down and fell to the ground in a heap. The weapons were then aimed at the police car, which still held Perry, and they peppered the cruiser with bullets. Although Perry was wounded in the arm, he was very lucky to escape with his life. Tong was to die several days later, but not before naming his killer, Suchan.

The manhunt was on, and this time it would be relentless. Suchan and Jackson made it back to Montreal unscathed. Even though he had nothing to do with the shooting, Boyd felt the heat. His picture was once again plastered all over every Toronto newspaper. Up until this time, Boyd and his wife could at least leave their house and attend a movie after dark, but now they had to stay completely out of sight.

Meanwhile, the next day in Montreal, the cops were in Suchan's apartment waiting for him [to] return home. As he entered his place, he was told by police to freeze; he reached for his gun and was shot down before he could unholster it. A few days later, due to a neighbour's tip, the police moved in on Lennie's apartment. The second arrest didn't go as easily and a lengthy shootout ensued. Finally, with dozens of tear gas bombs burning his eyes and lungs, Lennie came

out with a few bullet holes in him. The two survived their wounds and would soon be returned to Toronto.

Now Boyd was the only gang member left to be captured. Detective Dolph Payne had kept Boyd's brother under surveillance and discovered that he had rented a flat on Heath Street, but hadn't moved in yet. He secured a key to the back door from the owner. Payne then watched Boyd move into the flat from a neighbor's house. Wanting to avoid a shootout, he waited until he was sure everyone was asleep. At the crack of dawn the police crept inside the house and captured Boyd and his wife while they were still in bed. Boyd's brother, who was sleeping in another room, was also apprehended. No shootouts, no struggle, not even a whimper.

Boyd was once again a resident of the Don Jail and, much to his delight, the other three gang members soon showed up. Incredibly, the powers that be at the Don herded the four of them together into the otherwise empty death row cellblock.

Soon they had a piece of metal, a file and more hacksaw blades smuggled in to them. By eyeballing the guard's keys, they were able to file the metal piece down to something that resembled a key, but it actually worked. Now they could let themselves out of their cells for half an hour or so while all the guards were supervising the transfer of prisoners to Toronto's City Hall courthouse. It took several days to saw through the bars, but finally they were ready.

Just before dawn on September 8, 1952, the four slipped out through the bars onto a wall that was conveniently located just outside the window. But to their horror, there was a cop stationed at the base of the wall. They lay on the top of the wall for a few minutes watching the cop and wondering what to do next. Suddenly, the officer walked across the laneway and knocked on a back door at the Riverdale hospital. As the door opened, he entered. It didn't take them long to drop to the ground and disappear down the hill into the wilds of the Don Valley which ran next to the jail.

Once again a huge manhunt ensued. The reward for information leading to the gang's capture hit twenty-six thousand dollars causing hundreds of phone calls and letters to the police. Most of these leads proved false.

They holed up in an old barn near Yonge and Sheppard. One at a time they'd leave the barn to scrounge up clothes and food. Rumor has it that Boyd actually spent a night with his wife on one of his excursions. But they tended to be a bit lax while hiding out here and were spotted many times. Most people thought they were just hobos seeking shelter, but some became suspicious and called police.

On September 16, 1952 police closed in on the barn and surprised the gang. They were apprehended without incident and finally returned to the familiar old Don Jail. They would never escape jail again.



Now it was time for the gang to go to trial. There was absolutely nothing exciting about the court cases, so I won't bore you with the details, just the outcome.

Edwin Alonzo Boyd was found guilty of bank robbery and various other crimes. He received several concurrent life sentences. He was released on parole in 1966. He assumed a new legal identity and moved to western Canada.

Willie Jackson received a total of 31 years, which included the time that he had already been given in his previous convictions. He was also paroled in 1966.

Both Lennie Jackson and Steve Suchan were sentenced to death by hanging for the murder of Detective Edmund Tong.

Various other non-members of the gang, who haven't been dealt with here, received jail time for crimes ranging from harboring a criminal to armed robbery.



Justice was swift and sure back then. On December 16, 1952, Lennie Jackson and Steve Suchan were led

from their cells to the gallows at the Don Jail. At 12:14 AM, the hangman released the trap door and the duo fell through on the end of a hangman's rope. They were officially pronounced dead at 1:00 AM.

This closed the book on the Boyd Gang. Their escapades were soon forgotten by both the news media and the public. Toronto could now go back to being "Toronto the Good."

Edwin Alonzo Boyd died quietly at age 88 on May 17, 2002. He had been living under an assumed name in British Columbia since his release from prison.

## Quebec's motorcycle gangs

### CBC

Biker gang members share a passion for leather jackets and motorcycles. But beneath the image of long-haired rebels with tattoos lies a criminal underworld.



Rival gang members are beaten, tortured and killed over turf. The gangs are fueled by multi-billion dollar drug deals, with car theft, prostitution and money laundering rounding out the sources of revenue.

Biker gangs share these characteristics:

- They show off their colours in public.
- Biker gangs use force and violence to survive and grow. Intimidation, arms and explosives are their weapons of choice.
- The organizations have a hierarchical structure. Committing crimes is left to new recruits while those higher up reap the rewards.

- The hierarchical structure allows the leaders to operate with impunity while flaunting their image of power to attract recruits and draw them into crime.
- It is difficult for law-enforcement agencies to infiltrate these organizations because becoming a member involves committing crimes.

The Criminal Intelligence Service of Canada considers the Hells Angels to be the foremost organized crime group, topping traditional Mafia and ethnic gangs. The Hells Angels began in 1948 in California and has grown to a network of 1,800 members in 22 countries.

It's estimated that Canada has about 250 full-fledged members and about 2,000 associates. The largest and most-feared chapter of the Hells Angels was formed in Montreal. In 1977 it merged with another gang called the Popeyes.



The Hells Angels' arch-rivals are the Rock Machine. The Rock Machine appeared on the Montreal crime scene in 1986 and now numbers about 60 full-fledged members.

Biker gangs are run like lucrative businesses. The FBI estimates the Hells Angels take in \$1 billion a year worldwide from drug trafficking. In 1995, the east-end Montreal drug trade alone was worth about \$5 million.

But the profits come at a deadly price. At least 150 people have died during the eight-year turf war between the Hells Angels and the Rock Machine. While Canadians were aware of the biker war, few cared until the death of 11-year-old Daniel Desrochers. He died when a bomb exploded outside a biker hangout.

His death and the outrage that followed prompted Bill C-95, the legislation that stiffens penalties for convicted offenders who are shown to be members of established criminal organizations.

Justice Minister Anne McLellan hopes the bill has enough teeth to stem the violence and end the crime. "As they find new ways to commit their criminal acts and hide their ill-gotten gains ... it's incumbent on us to be one step ahead of them at least."

But as police and politicians attempt to put a stop to organized crime, biker gangs are expanding. The Rock Machine is rapidly spreading from Quebec into Ontario. So are the Hells Angels. They're countering with plans to expand into Ottawa and Sudbury. Police have also noticed a growing friendship between Hells Angels and Ontario's Satan's Choice gang.



Police fear the Rock Machine's expansion is their first step to build a cross-Canada network. The Rock Machine hopes to join a larger worldwide biker gang called the Bandidos. Their alliance may already be developing; the Bandidos Web site welcomes the Rock Machine members to their fold.

## **Guys are gonna die**

**New Bandidos chapter will be hit by Hells Angels, expert says**

**by Doug Beazley—Sun Media**

EDMONTON—Edmonton has had its own probationary chapter of the Bandidos outlaw biker club since November—and their public debut at Joey Campbell’s funeral Friday might mark the start of a bloody year in Alberta, says gang expert Yves Lavigne. “That funeral was the first time these guys appeared in public in Edmonton in their colours,” said author Lavigne, who has made a study of the Hells Angels and their biker rivals in Canada. He said the Bandidos Canada organization in Ontario confirmed to him recently they were responsible for giving the Edmonton chapter its charter.

“We’re talking six to 10 members in Edmonton, a probationary chapter that’s got a year or so to prove itself. That generally means setting up a drug network of their own.

“But every one that pulled on a Bandidos vest last week is committing public suicide. Alberta is Angels territory. Setting up a Bandidos chapter there is stupid, just stupid.

“These guys are all gonna die. My big concern is civilians getting caught in the crossfire.”

Word of a probationary Edmonton chapter is backed up by the fact that several Bandidos mourners at Campbell’s funeral were spotted wearing Alberta patches on their vests in gang colours—red and gold. But news of a Bandidos chapter in Edmonton may have caught city police by surprise.

“News to me,” said Edmonton Police Service spokesman Dean Parthenis. “We’re not going to start speculating about this, or any connections to any recent events, until we have all the facts.”

Lavigne's grim assessment comes from a comparison of the two gangs' relative strengths in Canada. The Angels are the dominant criminal biker gang in the nation and are, according to the last report of the Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta, the only one with chapters in Edmonton, Calgary and Red Deer.

The Angels in Alberta are considered to be heavily into cocaine trafficking, and the making and distribution of methamphetamine. Bandidos Canada, on the other hand, were almost wiped out in a bloody eight-year war with the Angels in Quebec and a series of police sweeps. They were, until recently, thought to be limited to a lone chapter in Ontario consisting of less than 20 members. The Edmonton chapter was not sanctioned by the far more powerful Bandidos network in the US, said Lavigne.

"There's a treaty between the Bandidos and the Angels that says whoever gets into a territory first, owns it," he said. "Well, the Angels own Alberta. So what happens next in Edmonton is going to end there—it won't spread further."

Lavigne said he thinks the Angels will have to violently eliminate the local Bandidos by the time their next national rally comes up this summer.

"The Angels have to do something, now the secret's out," he said. "They're going to have to shut this down, or risk having the organization look weak. If the Bandidos are still in town by the time of the next rally, the Alberta Angels are gonna get stomped by the other Angels."

City police yesterday reported no criminal incidents related to the Bandidos' appearance at Campbell's funeral.

## **Asian gangs top mob threat**

### **Conclusion of new intelligence report**

**by David Sands—Sun Media**

EDMONTON—Asian gangs have cemented their role as the deadliest organized crime threat in Alberta while the Hells Angels are at their fewest ever, a new police intelligence report claims. “The level of sophistication and the overt violence displayed by them (Asian gangs) has increased, and their operations are now being found in rural communities,” says the newly released semi-annual report of the Criminal Intelligence Service of Alberta.

On the other hand, the agency says, bikers are running on empty.

“There are three Hells Angels chapters in Alberta comprised of 39 members, the lowest membership ever.”

In its first report, March 2001, CISA pegged the Angels’ numbers at 49.

The report of the agency, an umbrella group that provides cash, crime-fighting tools and information to municipal police forces and RCMP detachments, also claims cops have put together a massive file on native street gang members, concentrating in the past year on those about to be released from jail after earlier busts.

“A total of 153 federal or provincial inmates with aboriginal gang affiliations were identified as being eligible for release to Alberta communities,” CISA director Ian Cameron wrote. “Based on the collective information obtained, a restricted report was distributed” that named the inmates and cited the location of their arrests and where they were likely to surface. It also calculated their risk to reoffend, the report claims.

There is no assessment of how effective the information has been.

Aside from the falling Angels—and a shaken membership after arrests in three of four Jamaican gangs—the number and nature of crime gangs have changed little in Alberta, the report reveals.

There are still about 24 known gangs considered a law-enforcement threat—and 11 more Asian gangs aspiring to become threats.

Writer Yves Lavigne, author of four books on the Hells Angels and two more on organized crime in general, said if the Alberta Angels are dropping in numbers, they're likely "shedding dead wood" acquired since they took over existing Alberta gangs in 1997.

Lavigne said he had little current direct knowledge of the Angels' strength in Alberta, but "there was a bunch of Alberta bikers who never should have been Angels. In their cases they were taken because the Angels wanted the whole country right away. They got greedy."



### Support Question

(do not send in for evaluation)

9. Give short-form answers to the following questions on the articles that you have just read.
- The article on the Boyd gang opens with a sentence full of adjectives. How do these adjectives influence the reader's attitude towards the Boyd gang?
  - What is the effect of the word "escapades" in the first paragraph?
  - What is the writer's attitude towards the "powers that be" and the way they handled Boyd and his partners?
  - Firearms are discharged frequently in this account. How is the shooting involving Boyd presented differently from the shooting involving Suchan?

- .....
- e) What attitudes towards biker gangs are shown in the CBC article “Quebec’s motorcycle gangs”? Give evidence for your answer.
  - f) “Gang expert” Yves Lavigne has a different attitude towards the Hells Angels. What is his attitude? Again, give evidence for your answer.
  - g) The third article mentions Asian, Aboriginal, and Jamaican gangs in Alberta, all apparently more numerous than the Hells Angels, whose membership seems to be falling. Yet the focus of the article is the Angels. Why did the newspaper choose the headline “Asian gangs top mob threat” for this article? Suggest possible reasons.
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## Youth Crime

Youth crime is of special interest for several reasons. As they assert their independence, young people increasingly resist control. As friends and peer groups become increasingly important, young people become exposed to new influences and dangers. At the same time, they are becoming more powerful themselves, and potentially threatening to others. Sex and drugs become issues, and late nights are more frequent.

Society tends to react ambivalently to young people in general and to youth crime in particular. On the one hand, there may be a strong desire to help youth get through a phase that is difficult for them as well—these are our children, after all. On the other hand, there may be a lot of resentment—all those sacrifices, and this is our reward! Many people feel that youth need a firm hand, and that if the parents themselves cannot provide one, then society should.

Read the following two articles, and get ready to form your own opinion on how to deal with youth crime. The first article looks at two recent and contrasting changes in the way in which

Canadian law deals with youth crime; the first change being to enforce longer sentences, and the second, to keep youth out of court and out of jail as much as possible. The article goes on to produce statistics that are, frankly, confusing. It is easy to see how statistics like these can be used to argue almost anything (and the article points out that these statistics may not be all that reliable, anyway). The second article uses statistics to argue that 1) we need not fear youth, and 2) we should focus on helping youth, not punishing them.

## **Youth crime**

### **Statistics Canada**

Most Canadians believe youth crime is on the rise and rank it as a high priority for the justice system. In a 1998 study, 77% of Canadians believed that sentencing of young offenders was too lenient.

Youth crime is not a new issue in Canada. The *Young Offenders Act* came into force in 1984 to make 12- to 17-year-olds more accountable for their actions, replacing the *Juvenile Delinquents Act* of 1908.

There was a sharp rise in violent crime by youth from 1988 to 1995. As a result, the public's scrutiny of the law increased. The *Young Offenders Act* was amended in 1995 to lengthen the maximum sentence for first-degree murder committed by a youth to 10 years and second-degree murder to a maximum seven-year term. Other amendments automatically transferred 16- and 17-year-olds charged with violent offences to adult court.

On April 1, 2003, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) came into force. This Act encourages the use of non-court measures for less serious offences. These measures are to be used in all cases in which they would be adequate to hold the young person accountable. For example, extrajudicial measures are believed to be adequate to hold non-violent offenders who have not previously been found guilty in court accountable for their actions.

The YCJA established new sentencing principles—sentences must be proportionate to the seriousness of the offence and the degree of responsibility of the young person. The sentence is required to be the least restrictive alternative and one that is most likely to promote rehabilitation. The Act also sets out specific restrictions on the use of custody. Custody is to be used primarily for violent offenders and serious repeat offenders when there are no other alternatives. The YCJA also created several new non-custodial sentencing options and provided that the custodial sentences include a period of supervision from the community.

The overall rate of youth crime—measured by the number of youth charged by police—decreased steadily from 1992 to 1999. There were slight increases in 2000 and 2001 before the youth crime rate dropped to less than 4,000 per 100,000 people in 2002. Youth crime is generally more property-oriented than adult crime: property crimes accounted for 44% of youth crime in 2002, while violent crimes accounted for 24%. The remaining 32% was made up of other criminal offences, such as mischief and disturbing the peace or offences against the administration of the law.

After peaking in 1995, the violent crime rate among young Canadians declined for four consecutive years before again peaking in 2001 at an even higher rate. The rate dropped again in 2002 to 934 per 100,000 people, significantly higher than the 832 per 100,000 reported in 1991.

Increased reporting to police may also account for the rise in violent crime and common assault—a reflection of more aggressive ‘zero tolerance’ strategies on the part of schools, social agencies and other institutions. In 2002, a full 7 out of 10 violent crimes committed by youth were assaults, though this represented only 17% of all youths charged. By comparison, property crimes such as

theft represented 25%, and breaking and entering accounted for 14%.

All categories of violent youth crime decreased in 2002 except for level 3 aggravated assault, sexual assault with a weapon and aggravated sexual assault. Combined, these three areas accounted for less than 2% of the 23,364 violent crimes. In 2002, a total of 42 youths were charged with homicide. The number of 12- to 17-year-olds charged with homicide hit a low of 30 in 2001 after fluctuating throughout the 1990s, from a low of 36 in 1993 to a high of 68 in 1995.

As you read the next article, ask yourself whether you believed any of the myths before you saw them printed in the article. It is highly likely that you have never believed some of them, at least. This article wants readers to start by assuming that society generally thinks these myths are true; it indicates that the myths are widespread public opinion. But are they? Maybe readers are being set up. The writer has found a way to make the facts he presents seem more important because they are disproving myths. But if people didn't believe the myths in the first place, there is really no argument; there is nothing to disprove. Although it might work as a way of getting points across, it is really misleading. Beware of this kind of writing style. It is called arguing against a straw man.

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## Myths about youth crime in Canada—Fact sheet

by Susan Reid

There are many misperceptions about youth in Canadian society. On the one hand, we are concerned about young people who are troubled, but at the same time, many individuals are unable to move beyond a perception that youth are trouble. This fact sheet lays out some of the more common misconceptions about young people generally, and young offenders in particular with a view to gaining a better understanding about the myths which are perpetrated about young people today.

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**Myth:** Young people are the major cause of violence in this country.

**Fact:** Youth are less likely to be charged with violent crime than adults. In 1997–98, over half (53%) of all youth charged with an offence were charged with property-related offences while 20% were charged with violent offences. While there has been an increase in the number of young persons charged with violent crime since 1986, according to statistics for 1997–98, 44% of violent offences were for common assault (the least violent or serious form of assault). It must be remembered that there have been substantial changes to legislation dealing with young people both within the criminal justice system and the wider society. Any change in legislation or policy (i.e. zero tolerance policies in schools) can lead to a subsequent change in reporting of incidents or infractions to the police. The rate of youths charged with violent crime has declined for the second year in a row.

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**Myth:** More youth than adults commit murder.

**Fact:** In 1997 there were a total of 581 homicides which accounts for 0.02% of the almost three million Criminal Code incidents reported. Of these cases, 56 youths were accused of murder. While research in

the United States has shown that persons accused of homicide have become increasingly younger, it appears that the median age of those accused of homicide has increased slightly over the past 25 years. In 1997, the most common single age for someone accused of homicide was 32. The rate of homicides for youths ranged from 1.5 to 2.9 per 100,000 youths since 1987 and in 1997 was 2.3 per 100,000.

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**Myth:** The increase in the crime rate in Canada is directly related to the increase in youth crime.

**Fact:** Research has shown that young people are at higher risk of committing criminal offences and the prevalence of offending peaks during the teenage years and decreases as people mature into their twenties. However, the crime rate in Canada has been steadily declining over the past six years with a 19% decrease reported over the years 1991 to 1997. This is due in part to the declining number of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 years (from 4.5 million to 4.1 million) and an increase in the population aged 55 years and over (from 5.1 million to 6.5 million).

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**Myth:** The elderly are more likely to be victims of violent youth crime.

**Fact:** While victimization studies and national polls have shown an underlying perception of increasing crime sensed by certain vulnerable populations, the elderly continue to be a low risk age group for becoming a victim of homicide. The most likely victim of youth violence are other youths (56%), and male youth in particular. Six in ten victims of youth violence were male.

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**Myth:** Most youth charged with an offence are not found guilty anyway.

**Fact:** In 1997–98, 67% of all cases heard in youth court resulted in a conviction for at least one charge. In New Brunswick in this same year, 87% of youths appearing in youth court on charges were convicted of at least one charge.

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**Myth:** Even if convicted of an offence, nothing happens to a young offender in terms of a sentence.

**Fact:** While the majority of young persons found guilty of a youth offence serve their sentences in the community, in 1997–98, one third of cases with convictions resulted in custodial sentences. In New Brunswick, 30% of youth found guilty of an offence received a custodial disposition. Custody was the most common sentence ordered in cases involving murder/manslaughter, attempted murder, aggravated assault, robbery, escape from custody/being unlawfully at large and failure to comply with a court disposition. In 1997–98, repeat offenders were three times more likely to be ordered to serve a term of custody than first time offenders for both violent and property-related offences. Further, as the number of prior convictions increased for a repeat young offender, the severity and length of sentence also increased.

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**Myth:** Locking up all young offenders is the smartest way to deal with juvenile crime.

**Fact:** While it is necessary for some young people to serve some time in custody, ultimately all young people are going to return to their communities. It is essential that young people are provided with appropriate opportunities for their rehabilitation early on in the process of committing offences so as to lessen the difficulties experienced by youth in reintegrating into their communities. If you put an unripened tomato in a paper bag for three weeks, you will be taking it out of the bag as a rotten tomato. The same holds true for young offenders.

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**Myth:** It is cheaper to lock kids in jail than to try and treat them in the community.

**Fact:** Many programs that prevent youth crime or assist youth in the community are far less expensive than incarceration. The average annual cost of detaining an adult offender in an institution is \$50,375 while the estimated annual cost of detaining a young offender is \$100,000.

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**Myth:** Just keeping kids in at night would take care of most crime, certainly most violence.

**Fact:** Contrary to what most people think, the peak times for the commission of crime by young people is between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., the after-school hours when young people are left on their own to pursue “leisure” interests.

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**Myth:** There’s nothing you can do to prevent youth crime.

**Fact:** There are many programs that have been proven to be effective in curbing the conditions that lead young people toward crime, strengthen the aspects of their lives that tend to keep them from becoming involved with crime, and work with the community to strengthen the capacity of the community to effectively deal with young people.

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**Myth:** Most teenagers are lazy and don’t want to help their communities.

**Fact:** Six out of ten young people already volunteer with community agencies. Almost nine out of ten teenagers would volunteer to take part in programs to help prevent crime if they knew how to get involved with their communities.



**Support Question**  
(do not send in for evaluation)

10. Write a 300-word opinion piece on how *you* think society should deal with young offenders. You can keep this general—there is no need for you to try and write a law—but in the course of your writing, you should consider the following questions, always giving good reasons for your opinions.
- Should young offenders be treated differently from other criminals just because they are young? If so, how?
  - Should special programs be created to help young people avoid crime?
  - Should parents be held responsible for crimes their children commit?
  - Should more emphasis be placed on the rehabilitation of young criminals? Should more emphasis be placed on punishing them?

Remember to begin with an introductory paragraph, in which you state your opinion (generally) about how society should deal with young offenders.

In your middle paragraph (or paragraphs), support your opinion by giving specific reasons and examples. The answers to the questions can be woven into your reasons.

End your essay with a concluding paragraph that restates your opinion and/or summarizes your main points.

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# Portrayals of Criminal Justice on the Small Screen

Television shows about detectives and prosecutors who pursue and prosecute criminals have always been popular. Although television production of dramas seems to have waned recently, replaced by low-budget “reality” shows and real time commentary or talk shows, police, lawyers, and criminals are still regularly portrayed in hour-long dramas, week after week.

There is a lot to look at in a television drama. Of course you are going to watch the characters acting, listen to the lines they speak, and follow the twists and turns of plot, waiting to see if the criminal gets what he or she deserves. But there are other elements to be aware of; ways in which you are being given social messages, and ways in which your emotions are managed and controlled as you watch. Consider some of these now.

## The Audience and the Pattern

Every show is designed for a target audience. You can get some idea of who the audience is meant to be by noting the time of the screening. Young children’s programming tends to be presented before about 7 p.m. You can also look at the advertisements that support the show. Are they aimed at men, women, or both, and at what age group? Another clue to the target audience is the network or broadcast station. TVO is aimed at people who want to be educated while they watch; CBC and PBS have specific mandates regarding the kinds of programming they offer and the regional interests they serve; and some of the commercial networks present particular types of programs, such as family viewing, sports and health programs, or reality shows. You can often find out about a network’s target audience by reading the information on their Web site.

Think of a crime show that you have watched. How was the story constructed? Did it follow a pattern or formula that you know; one that became familiar if you watched the show regularly? Most crime and detective shows follow a pattern. They are designed to fit into an hour slot, with the suspense building at crucial moments, usually right before commercial breaks!

Who are the main characters in the show? Is there a craggy-faced older white male lead, a young, spunky, pretty female assistant, and one or more highly professional, attractive visible minority colleague(s) and/or assistant(s)? Sounds like a pattern everyone has seen a few times!

What are the subtle messages in crime shows? Do you learn that crime never pays? Or that detectives are glamorous, or not glamorous? Are criminals always pathetic or unattractive? Does the court system offer justice, or does justice remain elusive, as the criminal's background and needs are never considered? Are there stereotypes presented in the characters, the settings, or the crimes themselves? Many of the issues you have been reading about in this unit are similar to the issues explored in crime shows and are reflected in the messages they deliver.

## The Production

Here are some questions it will not be easy to answer just from watching a crime show on television. Still, they are important to consider. A television show is a “media text”; a created mass media item that has a purpose, whether it is to entertain, to inform, to sell, to influence, or to make money. So you should be thinking about these questions:

- Who made the television show? Who financed it through production?
- How much did it cost to make?
- Who will make money from the television show? How will that money be used?

Even if you cannot find answers to these questions, remember as you watch a show that its real purpose is to earn money, and possibly to influence your thinking and spending patterns for the future.

## How the Camera Controls Us

Next time you are watching a television show or video, be aware of the **camera angle** in the individual shots (screen pictures) that you see.

- **Looking up:** When the camera is low to the ground and is looking up at people or objects, it makes the people or objects look bigger. Filming a person's face from below can make them look threatening. The effect of a shot from this angle can be negative. It can also make someone look powerful, and this can be negative or positive, depending on other aspects of the context.
- **Looking down:** If the camera looks down, it makes the person or object look smaller. It can make a person look weak or defenseless, and it can make another character, presumably one behind the camera, also looking down, seem very powerful.
- **Level:** The camera at eye level is neutral and might suggest that there is good communication or honesty between characters, or that they are both feeling about equal in power.

The camera angle can indicate one character's point of view. If you see a shot of one person looking at another, and then go to a shot of the other person, you can often assume that you are seeing what the first character is seeing. Then, from the angle at which they are seeing the second person, you have a sense of how that person is feeling.

Be aware also of **camera distance**:

- A faraway, long shot gives a big picture of people and their surroundings. It is good for establishing a scene and providing information.
- Medium shots get closer to particular actions and characters and show what is happening.
- Close-ups show what the character is thinking and feeling by focusing on his/her face, or they show details by focusing on a knife, for example, or a scrap of paper on the floor. They are

good for creating suspense, since they don't show what else is happening in the background.

All of these distances can be maintained or varied in tracking shots that follow a character or object as it moves around. This can also be used to create suspense, or to present details about a character through his or her actions.

What you see and how you interpret it are also controlled through **editing**. The events that happen over several months in a crime story have to be presented in a single hour on television. A filmmaker can make a single event seem long, or a long period of time pass very quickly, through editing.

Time can be delayed by cutting from one picture to another, so that a moment stretches out for much longer than it would normally take. This is a great way to build suspense. For example, a car that is about to be hit by a speeding train could be shown in delayed time. The camera could show the train approaching in the distance, then the car stopping on the tracks, then the train coming closer, then back to the car and the driver's face, back to the train, back to the occupants of the car, and so on. Switching back and forth from one place to the other slows the action, making it more suspenseful.

Other elements of filmmaking that affect our emotions and influence our attitudes and feelings are **sound** and **lighting**. As you watch a film, you may not even notice the music and sound effects that accompany it, but they are there and they affect you. Soft lighting suggests romance, mystery, or gentleness, while harsh lighting exposes ugly truths and coarsens textures. You are influenced to react to characters, settings, and events onscreen by the lighting, music, and other sounds that accompany the picture.



**Support Question**  
(do not send in for evaluation)



11. Look at photographs in newspapers and magazines, and identify different camera angles and camera distances. Do the angles and distances influence the way in which you think or feel about the subjects of the photographs? Try to find at least five different examples that use camera techniques to deliver a message.



**Key Question**



**Save your answers to the Key Questions in your Course Journal or e-Journal.**

8. Watch a one-hour crime or detective show on television. You will need to have paper and pencil handy as you will be asked to take notes about aspects of the show that you may not usually pay much attention to. Before you watch, set up a table to write in, as shown in Part a). You will have time to find the three camera angles, the three camera distances, and the editing examples (delayed time and skipping time) during an hour-long show. Don't feel that you have to find them all in the first few minutes! If you cannot find all of the elements in one show or you don't have time to write it all down, you can combine information from more than one viewing. Just be sure to write down the names, times, and advertisers of each show that you take notes from. **(100 marks)**

- a) Set up a page or two for note-taking, using the following headings. Then record your information as you watch. After the show, you can complete your notes and make them legible. You will be handing them in for marking.  
**(60 marks)**

<b>Name of show</b>	
<b>Advertiser(s)</b>  (Name two if there are many.)	
<b>Time of broadcast</b>	
<b>Main characters</b>  (Describe a detective and a criminal by their distinguishing characteristics.)	
<b>Camera angles</b>  (Describe a shot—Who?, What?, Where?—and the feeling or thought it promoted):  <b>1. from below</b>    <b>2. from above</b>    <b>3. from eye level</b>	

<p><b>Camera distances</b></p> <p>(Describe a shot—Who?, What?, Where?—and the feeling or thought it promoted):</p> <p><b>1. from far away</b></p> <p><b>2. from a medium distance</b></p> <p><b>3. from close-up</b></p>	
<p><b>Music or sounds</b></p> <p>(Describe When? and What? and the feeling it gives.)</p>	
<p><b>Lighting</b></p> <p>(Describe the brightness, darkness, vivid colours, and muted colours, and the feelings they give.)</p>	
<p><b>An example of delayed time</b> (cutting back and forth between two faces or events or objects)</p> <p>Does it create suspense?</p>	
<p><b>An example of skipping time</b> (how the time that is passing is portrayed, e.g., through cutting from one scene to another, or through sound, etc.)</p> <p>Is this effective?</p>	

- b) Write a report of your findings, in which you describe
- how the elements listed in Part a) influenced your thoughts and feelings about the characters, particularly the detectives and the criminals. Did these elements affect your ideas about the guilt or innocence, goodness or evil, and “niceness” or nastiness of the characters?
  - whether you thought that you were part of the target audience for the show, and why you thought that
  - what social messages were being conveyed in the show (about crime, society, the justice system, or anything else), and an explanation of whether you think those messages are valid

Your report should be in three paragraphs, and about **300 to 400 words** long altogether. You do not need to have introductory and concluding paragraphs—just begin each paragraph with a topic sentence, and conclude it with a concluding sentence. **(40 marks)**

Your answers to the Key Question will be marked out of **100 marks**; **60** for the research you do while watching the show, and **40** for the report. Your answers will be marked according to the following Marking Guides.

**Marking Guide for Part a) (60 marks)**

- Name of show (1 mark)
- Advertisers (2 marks)
- Time of broadcast (1 mark)
- Main characters (6 marks)
- Camera angles (3 × 5 marks)
- Camera distances (3 × 5 marks)
- Music or sounds (5 marks)
- Lighting (5 marks)
- Delayed time (5 marks)
- Skipping time (5 marks)

**Marking Guide for Part b) (40 marks)****Content**

- Relevant personal responses to questions (5 marks)
- Clearly stated ideas (4 marks)
- Detailed explanations for opinions (6 marks)
- Supporting details from research and television show where needed (3 marks)
- Effective application of ideas from lesson in responses (2 marks)

**Style**

- Effective topic and concluding sentences (6 marks)
- Clear, logical organization of information (6 marks)
- Accurate spelling and grammar (4 marks)
- Accurate use of terms and descriptive language (4 marks)

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**Now go on to Lesson 9. Remember, you do not send your journal to the Independent Learning Centre until you have completed Unit 2 (Lessons 6 to 10).**

