

Lab assignment 1

Traditional policing – Police Crackdowns

Here is the scenario associated with this particular lab assignment:

A large, urban school district recently instituted a school busing system because of behavior concerns associated with the high school dismissal process. For years community members have been complaining about fighting, vandalism, theft, smoking, and a host of other undesirable behaviors that students have been engaging in shortly after dismissal. To try and limit the extent to which some of the students linger and create problems for the residents who live in the vicinity of the school, busing was seen as a viable alternative. Additionally, the school district is large and there are a number of students who were forced to walk several miles home from school so busing was thought to be a service for these students as well. In the history of this school system busing has never been afforded to students prior to this year.

The school district is poor and largely minority. Each student receives a free lunch because more than 80% of the student population is considered economically disadvantaged. The high school is located in a poorer area of the city but there are wealthier neighborhoods (which are largely white), it just so happens that those neighborhoods are several miles away from the school.

Recently, members of the school board asked the police chief to deal with an issue that parents have suggested is becoming a problem. A number of residents have come to board meetings to complain that vehicles are not yielding to school buses that are loading and unloading children. This is particularly true at 4-way intersections. The issue came to a head recently when a minority student was struck by a car as she was crossing the street after being dropped off at the end of the day. The car did not stop despite the fact that the bus had the red flashing lights activated. The board has asked the police chief to intervene and correct the perceived problem.

So, here is your assignment:

You must create a police crackdown intervention that is designed to correct the problem. Keep in mind that your job is to design an intervention that maximizes what we know about the effectiveness of police interventions and minimizes the consequences. As a way of providing a more direct explanation of what is expected from you, make sure your answer includes the following:

1. Begin by identifying the problem or problems. Do not assume that there is only one problem that I have identified. Aside from the obvious safety concern there is at least one other problem that has to be identified.
2. Make sure that you clearly identify how the three essential elements of a police crackdown will be implemented (slide 6 of the PP presentation for week 2).
3. Make sure that you plan to include the concepts that have been demonstrated to make police crackdowns more effective. Those concepts are presented in slides 7 and 8 of the week 2 PP presentation.

4. Since this is a largely minority district and the relationship between the police and the community is already strained, make sure you identify how you will work to ensure that the crackdown does not cause greater harm to that relationship.

As always, please keep in mind that this is a essay-style, college-level assignment. As such your response is expected to start with an introductory paragraph, contain several well-organized paragraphs with the main arguments, and then end with a summary or concluding paragraph. If you would like to use subheads, feel free to do so but it is not a requirement. It is to be typed in a MS word-style document using 12-point font and one-inch margins. The assignment is to be uploaded to the canvas website by the end of the class period. Do not submit a PDF copy of the assignment. If you do, your grade will be reduced by one letter (10 points).