

Is Graffiti Vandalism or Art?

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There has been a major debate over graffiti. Many people say that it's art, while others believe that it is vandalism. In recent years, we have seen many opinions on which side they agree on. A range of 14-29 year olds personally agree that graffiti is art. One specific question I have asked was, "What's your personal opinion on the debate between graffiti being art or vandalism? Has your perspective changed over time?" As stated by one of my teachers, she said, "I think it's a great debate to have, and from my perspective over time, people make great arguments for both sides." (Torres). People do make great arguments on both sides, but there is no correct side for this argument.

Everyone has different opinions on everything. Another person I have interviewed, also answered the question that my teacher answered. His response followed with these words, "Graffiti can be both, but there are some graffiti that leave good messages towards other people like celebrities, or people who passed away." (Marvin) He believes that it can be both, but mostly believes it's a way to spread a message on those who have tragically passed away. I have heard many opinions on this topic like how it depends on where it is being painted at, and others said that it's just plain up vandalism. Yet, there is more than one age group that believes differently.

I have asked one of my friends who is currently 13 years old, and he believes that graffiti is mostly vandalism. I also asked him the same question as the other two volunteers. His response was, "I think if it sends a message, like in protesting or something, but i don't think It's art, so I think in either scenario it's vandalism, unless it is public property." (Gabriel). He believes it's mostly vandalism, even if it's sending a message. Even though others may not agree with his opinion, he did make a good point about why it is vandalism, since graffitiing on public property where it doesn't allow it, it's wrong.

Personally, I say it depends on where they are doing graffiti, because if people are damaging private property, it's a problem. But if it's on their own property, or somewhere that allows it, it should be fine to do so. In all the months I have talked about graffiti in class and with teachers, I have heard many opinions, even if I don't agree with them. Basically everyone is split into different groups, debating on whether graffiti is vandalism or art.