

Научно-исследовательская работа

Иностранный язык

## **Graffiti: Art or Vandalism?**

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## **Introduction**

While walking in the street, people can often see different writings and pictures on walls and fences. Some of them will think: «Wow, it is cool! It is something new and fresh! », but others will say: «They are awful! They spoil the view! ».

It is time to discuss if graffiti are an awful or beautiful realia of the modern world.

### **The aim of research is**

to understand if graffiti are art or vandalism.

### **The tasks are:**

- to explain the basic terms of this topic;
- to learn the history of graffiti;
- to answer the main question of the research and explain each point of view.

## **Main Part**

### **What are graffiti?**

Graffiti are drawings made on a surface in a public place. Often, they are created with paint or spray paint. A single mark could be called a **graffito** but the word **graffiti** usually used, meaning that there is more than one mark.

### **What is vandalism?**

Vandalism is senseless damage to property. Historically, the word **vandalism** came from the name of ancient Germanic people, who occupied Rome in 455 and destroyed statues and other work of art. .... add information

### **Where did graffiti come from?**

Graffiti have a long history. Graffiti have been found in very old cities. For example, graffiti have been found in Roman ruins, Remains of Mayan city of Tikal in Central America, on rocks in Spain dating in 16th century.

The most famous ancient graffiti in Rome and Pompey. People often used graffiti in Rome Empire for political and social purposes.

Next stage of graffiti began with messages that representatives of gangs of New York left on the streets of the city in the 1920s and 1930s. Over time, such inscriptions began to appear on all kinds of immovable and movable objects: such as buildings, fences, bridges, trains. There were many artists and styles. By the end of the last century, the police and city authorities in different countries began to fight against street artists.

Modern graffiti was made famous in New York City in the early 1970s by the children of the working class. They called it “writing”, and called themselves “writers”.

As a result, graffiti as a phenomenon are a part of street culture, and it is difficult to imagine modern cities without them.

### **Art vs Vandalism**

The graffiti art culture is increasingly being accepted in many cities around the world. However, some society players still can't answer the question, **if graffiti are art or vandalism?** In many cases, graffiti could be vulgar, crude and can be considered nothing but pure vandalism. Sometimes it is just a person's name or a rude word. Sometimes it is a public political protest because graffiti are illegal without permission.

Serious artists use graffiti as a form of expression. They help start important conversations about social, political and environmental issues. Often, graffiti creators and artist use public spaces to express themselves, which rouses the question of vandalism.

There is always a thin line between graffiti as art or vandalism. When graffiti are done in a public space, where other people find it unsightly or offensive, then they

are considered as vandalism. When graffiti are done without a property owner permission they are considered vandalism.

On the other hand, graffiti artists have also often created their art on private spaces, especially they pay attention on modern problem of society such as war, migration, pandemic, gangs, human rights.

But not all graffiti are vandalism. As the art street culture continues to grow, graffiti have certainly found their space in today's world. There are world-famous graffiti artists who find legal space to express their art and pass his own messages to people.

### **Conclusion**

So, are graffiti art or vandalism? They are both depending on how the graffiti are done and it would be best if all artists used the right spaces to make it purely art and never vandalism.

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