

CRIME RATE IN FLORIDA

By Carlos Colon

General Purpose: To persuade

Specific purpose: To present the problem of crime, the associated causes of criminal behavior and propose a solution.

Introduction

I. **Open with impact:** Crime in the United States has increased dramatically over the years and Florida is no exception. According to the 2006 Crime in Florida report published by the Florida Department of Law enforcement:

- A. Over eleven-hundred people were murdered in 2006.
- B. Approximately 171 thousand houses were burglarized
- C. And to make matters worse, there were roughly 65 hundred people raped.

II. **Thesis:** The crime rate in the State and in Central Florida is rising and as Floridian's we should stand up and help fix this problem.

III. **Connect:** The Uniform Crime Reporting Program, a division of the US Department of Justice located on the Web at fbi.gov, defines Violent crime as composed of four offenses: murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. I ask,

- A. are you safe in your neighborhood or nearby communities?
- B. can you peacefully sleep at night without the thought of someone breaking into your house?
- C. should an innocent bystander someone you may know and love - pay the price of life because another person decides to shoot a gun?
- D. more importantly, can our children play in a neighborhood park without worrying about a sexual predator raping an innocent child?

I. **Preview:** Today I am going to provide you with some violent crime statistics, present two problems often associated with the causes of criminal behavior, and then offer you a solution.

BODY

I. **Main point:** Since 2004, crime in Orlando have been on a steady incline according to the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) 2006 Crime report found at fbi.gov. The report states:

- A. During 2005 the city of Orlando had 22 murders; in 2006 it doubled to 49 murders and since September 2007, there have been 34 murders.

- B. In Orange County alone there have been 54 murders through September of this year, with the most violent of crimes being committed by young repeat offenders.
- C. In the State of Florida approximately 12% of all violent crimes are committed by a person under the age of 18.
- D. While not all crimes are reported, the Bureau of Justice in their 2006 Reporting Trends published on the US Department of Justice Web site, states there has been an increase in reported crimes by all racial groups which is the first step in stopping crime.
- E. The significance of crime is it affects all of us. For example:
 - i. Is your job dependent on tourism? How many visitors will want to visit a place where the likelihood of being robbed, raped or murdered is greater than having a relaxing and fun vacation? How many businesses will want to establish operations in a City where crime outweighs the potential to make a profit?

(Signpost and transition: Now you may be asking, what are the factors that can lead a person to becoming a criminal?)

II. Main point: The lack of a strong social network such as family and education plays a vital role in the reason why people become and continue to commit crimes.

- A. According to the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Web site at ojp.gov, in the August 2007 Criminal Offenders Statistics report
 - i. Thirty-one percent of jail inmates had grown up with a parent or guardian who abused alcohol or drugs
 - ii. About 12 percent had lived in a foster home or institution.
 - iii. Forty-six percent had a family member you had been incarcerated
 - iv. More than 50 percent of the women in jail said they had been physically or sexually abused in the past, compared to more than 10 percent of the men.
- B. The lack of education among prisoners is another indicator of why people commit crimes. According to the November 2003 article Criminal Justice: Higher Ed in Prison written by George Loper on george.loper.org, criminals are less educated, for example:
 - i. while over 50% of the U.S. population (over the age of 23) had at least some college, only 11% of those in prison do
 - ii. 40% of those in prison do not have a high school education compared to only 16% of the general population

- C. Before criminals are created they need a motivation in their life to understand why education is important
 - i. This is where parents come along to supports their kids in any situation and explain right from wrong.
 - ii. According to Cognitive learning in children with parent involvement, an article written by G. Whitehurst, published in the ERIC data base (www.eric.ed.gov), parent involvement has a positive effect on cognitive learning.
- D. Cognitive learning helps with perception, memory and judgment. Cognitive learning strengthens problem solving skills.
 - i. For example: kids who are driven by the popular Goth or Hip Hop music sometimes promote violence among their friends that wants to be cool by following the style. One that has better perception and judgment would avoid such crowds and without problems.

(Signpost and transition: Now it is time for cooperative action to solve this problem.)

III. **Main Point:** government should offer grants to college students in exchange for community service.

- A. If the government is giving you free money so you can attend college, then they should make a minimum requirement for community involvement.
- B. The grant program could include any of the following programs:
- C. The grant would require that you go to public schools to talk about your success, the steps you took to get into college, and to encourage today's youth to strive for positive life goals.
- D. The grant program could pair you with unfocused kids or young teenagers in schools, or with troubled juveniles in the court systems.
- E. This may improve juvenile knowledge about alternatives to crime, provide an opportunity to bond and make friendships with someone that will show you success, value, and priority.
- F. The grant program I propose provides the receiver with an opportunity to give back to the community, to be a positive role-model in hopes of deterring a young person away from crime and rewarding you with an opportunity to meet the expensive of obtaining a college degree.

Conclusion

I. **Summarize:** Today I spoke about the problem of crime. Specifically,

- A. violent crime statistics,
- B. two problems associated with criminal behavior: family support and a lack of education,

C. finally I provided a solution to curbing crime through a government supported grant program for college students.

II. **Close with impact:** Remember it take involvement to make this a better place and its not only for you but for your kids and family

References

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