

Theories of crime and Deviance Fall 2008 Grounded Theorizing Exercise Using *Gang Leader for a Day*

LEARNING GOALS: To engage in a grounded theorizing exercise, using as data the specific incidents, events, conditions, and relationships described in *Gang leader for a day*. Specifics include practice developing theory, and linking data to concepts and propositions.

TIME: 30 minutes, at the end of which you should have some type of written product and a person prepared to report on the group's work.

Names:

FOCUS: JT and the BKs, in Robert Taylor Homes and elsewhere, as described by Venkatesh

YOUR GROUP GOAL: Outline a grounded theory that **describes and explains:**

The gang brings crimes, including violence, to the community

Be prepared to outline the pathways through which this occurs. Be prepared to cite one or more specific instances that illustrate each pathway. If you have a lot of time you may wish to outline the setting conditions (structural preconditions) that facilitate or hinder these dynamics.

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YOUR GROUP GOAL: Outline a grounded theory that **describes and explains:**

The gang benefits the community.

Be prepared to outline the pathways through which this occurs. Be prepared to cite one or more specific instances that illustrate each pathway. If you have a lot of time you may wish to outline the setting conditions (structural preconditions) that facilitate or hinder these dynamics. (Don't worry about harms to the community, those get addressed elsewhere.)

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YOUR GROUP GOAL: Outline a grounded theory that **describes and explains:**

The gang, sometimes in collaboration with local elected leaders, governs the community and community spaces.

Be prepared to outline the pathways through which this occurs. Be prepared to cite one or more specific instances that illustrate each pathway. If you have a lot of time you may wish to outline the setting conditions (structural preconditions) that facilitate or hinder these dynamics. You can argue, if you wish, that this is a **corrupt** government.

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YOUR GROUP GOAL: Outline a grounded theory that **describes and explains:**

The gang's primary concern is revenue generation, and profits; it is primarily part of a corporation.

Be prepared to outline the pathways through which this occurs. Be prepared to cite one or more specific instances that illustrate each pathway. If you have a lot of time you may wish to outline the setting conditions (structural preconditions) that facilitate or hinder these dynamics.