

## Investigating Juvenile Violence Writing Assignment

### Your Task:

As homework, read “A Life of Guns, Drugs, and Now Killing, All at Age 6.” Then write a 2-4 page essay in which you assert your opinion regarding the punishment of juveniles in our society. Consider the following questions as you write your essay:

- ❖ Do you feel that the boys described in “A Chilling Crime and a Question: What’s in a Child’s Mind?” received a just punishment for their crimes?
- ❖ Should children this young be held accountable for their crimes and be tried as adults? Why or why not?
- ❖ Should parents be held responsible in these cases? Why or why not?
- ❖ At what age do you think that a child who commits a crime knows and understands that what he or she is doing is wrong, and why?\*

Remember to support your opinions with evidence from the text we read in class and the text you read for homework. For this essay, I’d like you to incorporate at least one quotation from each of these texts.

### Rhetorical Context:

The editorial staff of the *Albuquerque Journal* has asked high school students in the area to submit their opinions regarding this issue in order to get a broad range of perspectives on the juvenile justice system. Your opinion-based, reflective essay may be featured as an editorial in an upcoming edition of the paper, and if it is, your audience will consist of diverse members of the Albuquerque community.

NOTE: This rhetorical situation is fictional and created solely for the purpose of this assignment. However, your tone, style, and language should be appropriate for this situation.

### Requirements:

- ❖ Write 2-4 pages (typed and double-spaced)
- ❖ Use 12 pt. font, Times New Roman or equivalent
- ❖ Include a clever title at the top of the page
- ❖ Remember to proofread!

**Due Date:** Friday, December 8 during class

\*adapted from www. <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/19980816sunday.html> and from <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20000303friday.html>.