

Unit 3 Individual Project Tutorial – Developing an Anti-Gang Action Plan

Action Planning

A community policing officer understands that gang problems cannot be stopped without the cooperation of the community where gang members live and operate. Success can only come about with a partnership between officers and the public. The following are two important concepts that will help you write your paper:

- Four steps of an [action plan](#) to reduce gang activity
- Using the SARA model in [community policing](#) to identify and solve problems

Do not be [intimidated](#) about writing an action plan. You are just writing a paper about a juvenile justice [concept](#) that involves addressing youth gang issues. You have already written many papers at AIU. In this paper, you are considering creative proposals to address these issues. This tutorial provides many links to informative articles and concepts to think about. Click on all of the links to gain greater insight about these community issues.

Community Policing

The old days of having an “us against them” attitude will not work for law enforcement officers in the community. For example, the following attitudes are socially destructive, are counterproductive, and will cause a police department's primary mission to serve the community to fail:

- Us against them
- Officers against the community
- The community against the police

If counterproductive attitudes are not eliminated, they will cause a police department to fail in its efforts to effectively reduce crime and violence. Officers cannot work alone to solve community problems—they must work in cooperation with the people who live and work in the community. Officers are effective only when they get the cooperative consent from a majority of the people in a community. Sir Robert Peel summed it up as follows: The ability of the police to successfully fulfill their duties is completely dependent on public approval of their existence, actions, and behavior, as well as their ability to obtain and maintain respect from the public (Law Enforcement Action Partnership, n.d.).

For the police to secure and maintain the respect and approval of the public requires obtaining the public's willing cooperation, in the task of obtaining obedience to laws (Law Enforcement Action Partnership, n.d.).

For example, if you want to reduce gang activities in your community, then as a community policing officer, you can only be successful if or when you obtain the cooperation and consent of the community [at large](#). You and your agency can only be successful with the help of the people. They are your eyes,

ears, and sources of [criminal intelligence](#). Nobody knows the community better than the people who live there. They know their neighbors [intimately](#), compared to you who may have never met their neighbors. Only the public can provide you with [raw intelligence](#)—but will they give it to you? What is their incentive to cooperate with the police? Will they give you crime tips? You must make them feel that they are part of the team.

Remember: It is not “us against them.” The community is your ally and not your enemy.

The vast majority of citizens are honest, and most crimes are solved only with the help of the public. Very few crimes are solved without their assistance, tips, and testimony.

“In reality, about **11% of all serious crimes** result in an arrest, and **about 2% end in a conviction**” (Baughman, 2020).

Think about that. The notion that the police solve most crimes on their own, without help from the public, is a [misnomer](#) that is perpetuated by fictional TV shows. The vast majority of crimes are solved with either victim testimony, witness testimony, or confessions from suspects.

References

Baughman, S. (2020, August 20). *Police solve just 2% of all major crimes*. The Conversation. <https://theconversation.com/police-solve-just-2-of-all-major-crimes-143878>

Law Enforcement Action Partnership. (n.d.). *Sir Robert Peel's policing principles*. <https://lawenforcementactionpartnership.org/peel-policing-principles/>