

CRIMINAL JUSTICE and COLLEGE STUDENTS



BROKEN WINDOWS IN OUR LIVES

Have you ever driven or walked into a neighborhood and said to yourself “I shouldn’t be here. This is not a safe neighborhood”? Assuming you have, as most of us have had this experience, what was it about the neighborhood that made you come to that realization? List as many reasons as you can.

Now, have you ever driven or walked into a neighborhood and said to yourself “Wow, this is a really nice neighborhood!”? Again, assuming you have, what was it about this neighborhood that made you think that? List as many reasons as you can.

Next, compare your answers for the two neighborhoods. Are there things in common that just had different states of being? For instance, say that you noticed the streets in both neighborhoods. In the not-so-nice neighborhood, you saw potholes and trash, whereas in the nicer neighborhood, there were no potholes and no trash.

Finally, in a small group or as a class, discuss your answers to both questions. Do others share your views on what makes an unsafe versus a safe neighborhood?