

H. S. I.

(History Subject Investigation)

Latin Kings: Neighborhood Friends or Public Enemies?

Acting as Detective

In 1996 Antonio “King Tone” Fernandez took control of New York City’s Latin Kings, one of its largest and most violent gangs. In poor neighborhoods, some people saw him as a working class hero leading the gang away from crime. The police saw him as a big time thug. As a result, much attention was given to inner-city gangs. As an internet blogger assigned to study the issue, your job is to decide: Are the Latin Kings friends of the neighborhood, public enemies, or both?

The Resources

- Record A: Excerpt from the Almighty Latin King Nation Manifesto/Constitution
- Record B: Excerpt from “The Latin Kings Speak” (Mar. 28, 2002)
- Record C: “Chicago Latin King Leader Convicted” (Jul. 22, 2008)
- Record D: Background on the Latin Kings
- Record E: “Building Peace, Unity, and Justice in Greensboro” (Jul. 13, 2009)

Investigating the Issue

For each of the above Records, you will complete the Record File. In the Record File you will answer the following questions:

1. Who wrote the document?
2. When was the document written?
3. What type of document is it? (newspaper article, internet blog, official document, interview)
4. How are the Latin Kings described in the document?
5. What is some evidence in the document to support the issue?

Judging the Issue

Based on your study of the 5 Records and the Record File you prepared, write a short essay that answers the question – Are the Latin Kings friends of the neighborhood, public enemies, or both? In the essay, please use at least 3 pieces of evidence from the Records themselves.