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Book: In Cold Blood

Prompt

Introduction: On November 15, 1959, in Holcomb, Kansas, four members of the Clutter family were murdered by Perry Smith and Richard Hickcok. The crime was snowballed from a simple lie from the prison snitch to a quadruple homicide. The murder of the Clutter family rocked the nation with the development of the thought that violent crimes can happen any where and for any reason. And just like other crimes through out the century, the Clutter family murder changed America's society due to the fact that small towns no longer felt safe.

Directions: Carefully read each of the following sources, and synthesize at least three sources and incorporate them into a coherent, well-written essay developing a stance answering the question of “How have violent crimes in America developed and formed our society over the last century?”

Your argument should be the focus of your essay. Use the source to develop your argument and explain the reasoning for it. Avoid merely summarizing the sources. Indicate clearly which sources you are drawing from, whether through direct quotation, paraphrase, or

summary. You may cite the sources as Source A, Source B, etc., or by using the descriptions in parentheses.

Citations

Source A: “In Cold Blood” (Truman Capote)

Source B: “Crime As A Major Social Issue” (Edith Elisabeth Flynn)

Source C: “Crime And Social Policy” (Britannica)

Source D: Etan Patz (Crime Museum)

Source B

Flynn, Edith Elisabeth. "Crime as a Major Social Issue: Introduction - EDITH ELISABETH FLYNN, 1983." *SAGE Journals*

The following article discusses the statics of the increase and decrease of crime rates

Crime and Crime Control persist as topics of national concern. Crime statistics show that the nation experienced a dramatic increase in a crime from the 1960s to 1970s after going through a period of relative tranquility during the 1940s and 1950s space (Uniform crime reports, 1960 - 1981). The per capita rate of violent offenses reported to police triple between 1960 and 1978, with the greatest increase taking place between 1965 and 1971 when violent crime grew more than 60% a year the total crime rate more than doubled during the same period. This phenomenal rise in crime Pete in 1975, when crime rates begin to stabilize do 1981. The latest available statistics reflect a decline in a total crime rate of 1.7% from 1980 to 1981, with violent crime decreasing by 7% and property crime declining by 1.8%. only robbery shows an increase of 2.9% for that year.

The gradual stabilization of the nation's crime rate, and the recent modest decline in overall crime rate, bear out predictions of a hideous in the crime problem, largely attributable to the decrease in the number of persons between the age of 15.

Source C

Allott, Antony Nicolas, and Thomas J. Bernard. "Crime and Social Policy." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 11 Dec. 2019,

The following article discusses the effects of crime on society

Traditional societies also generally focus on responding to crime after it has occurred. Consistent with the view that crime is an ordinary and unavoidable part of life, there often are few expectations that responses to crime will influence future criminality. Rather, the responses attempt to return the society to a kind of balance that had been disrupted by the crime itself. In contrast, in modern, economically developed societies, crime policies increasingly focus on the achievement of future reductions in crime. That effort is limited by the need to retain a sense of legitimacy and fairness in crime-control policies. But, in general, support for crime policies largely depends on beliefs about their predicted ability to reduce crime.

Source D

“Etan Patz.” *Crime Museum*,

The following article discusses the case that started putting children’s faces on milk cartons

Etan Patz’s disappearance became a landmark moment in child abduction investigations. Thanks to Julie and Stanley Patz’s relentless search efforts, it was one of the first missing children’s cases to coordinate a publicity campaign nationwide. Photographs and contact information were distributed on posters, newspapers, and television broadcasts, and Etan was the first missing child to have his picture shown on milk cartons. In 1983, on the fourth anniversary of Etan’s abduction, President Ronald Reagan declared May 25 to be National Missing Children’s Day. Etan’s case, along with that of Adam Walsh and several other children abducted across the United States, also led to the establishment of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in an attempt to raise awareness about child predators and prevent such tragedies.

