

You can help keep our
community
graffiti free!

ACTIVITY
Book

PIMA COUNTY

TAAG

Taking Action Against Graffiti

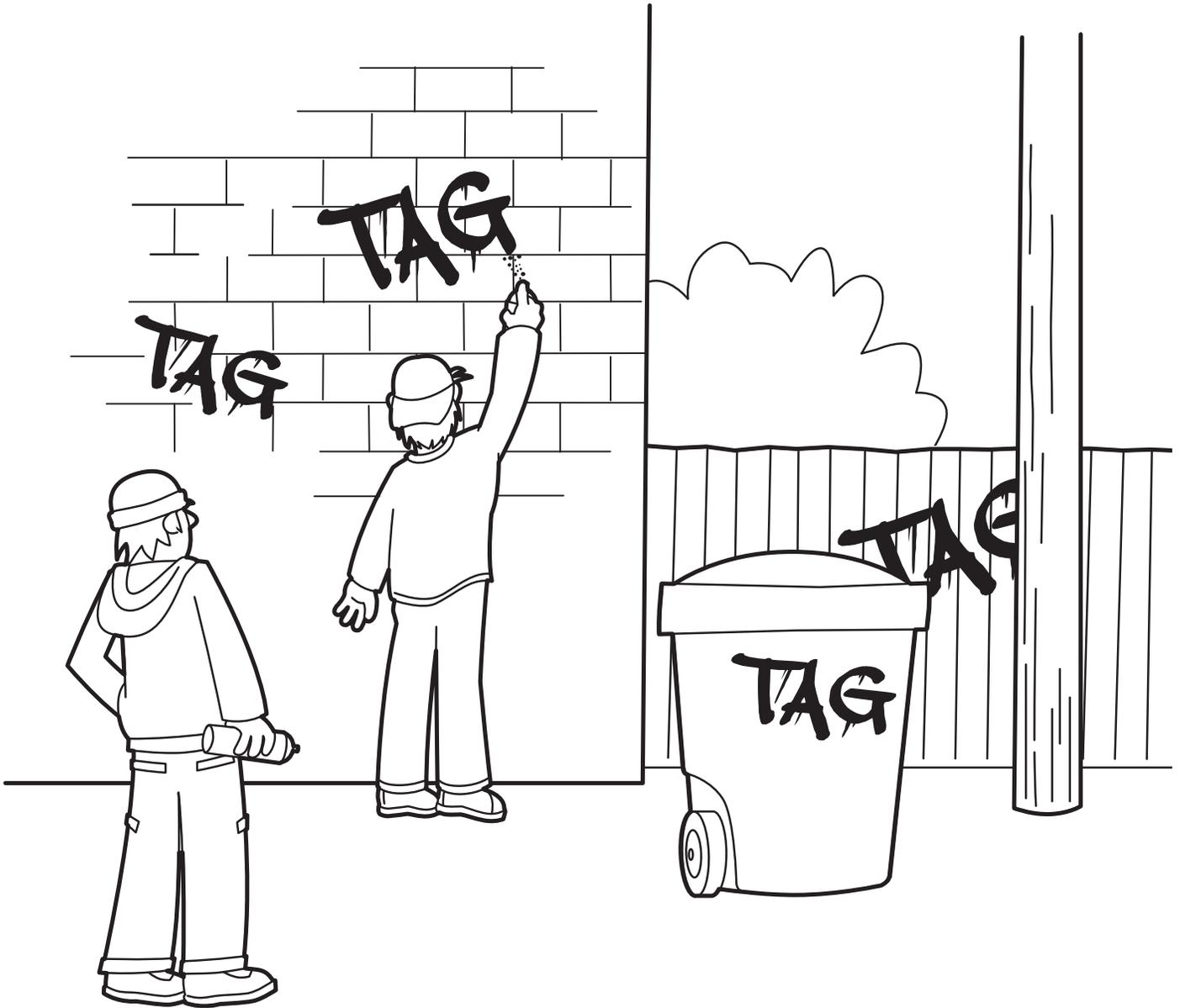


This activity book
belongs to:





Chris used to be a TAGGER.



Chris and his friends would spray paint neighborhoods every night.



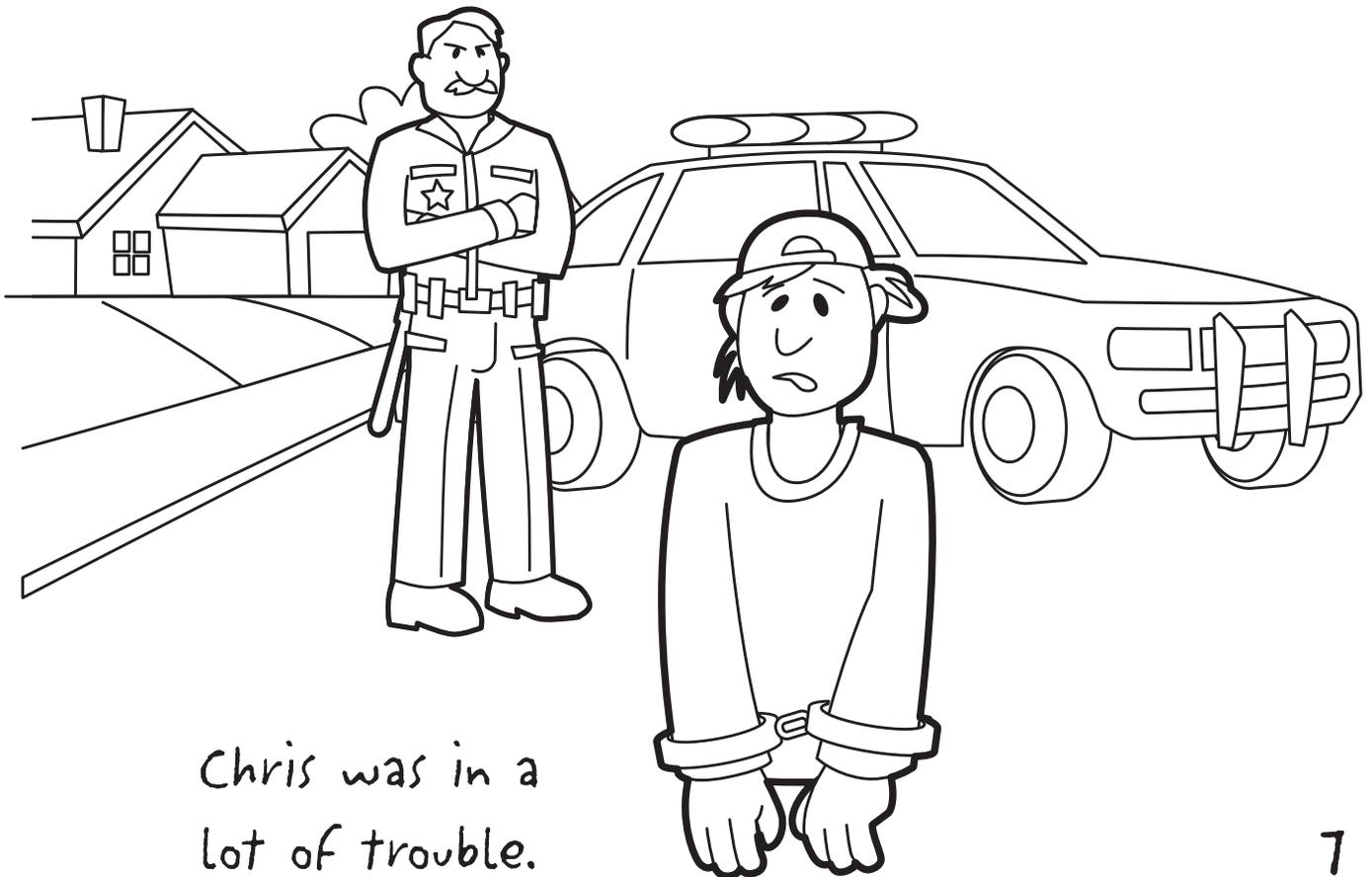
One day he was walking home after school
and thought about tagging a house that
looked abandoned.



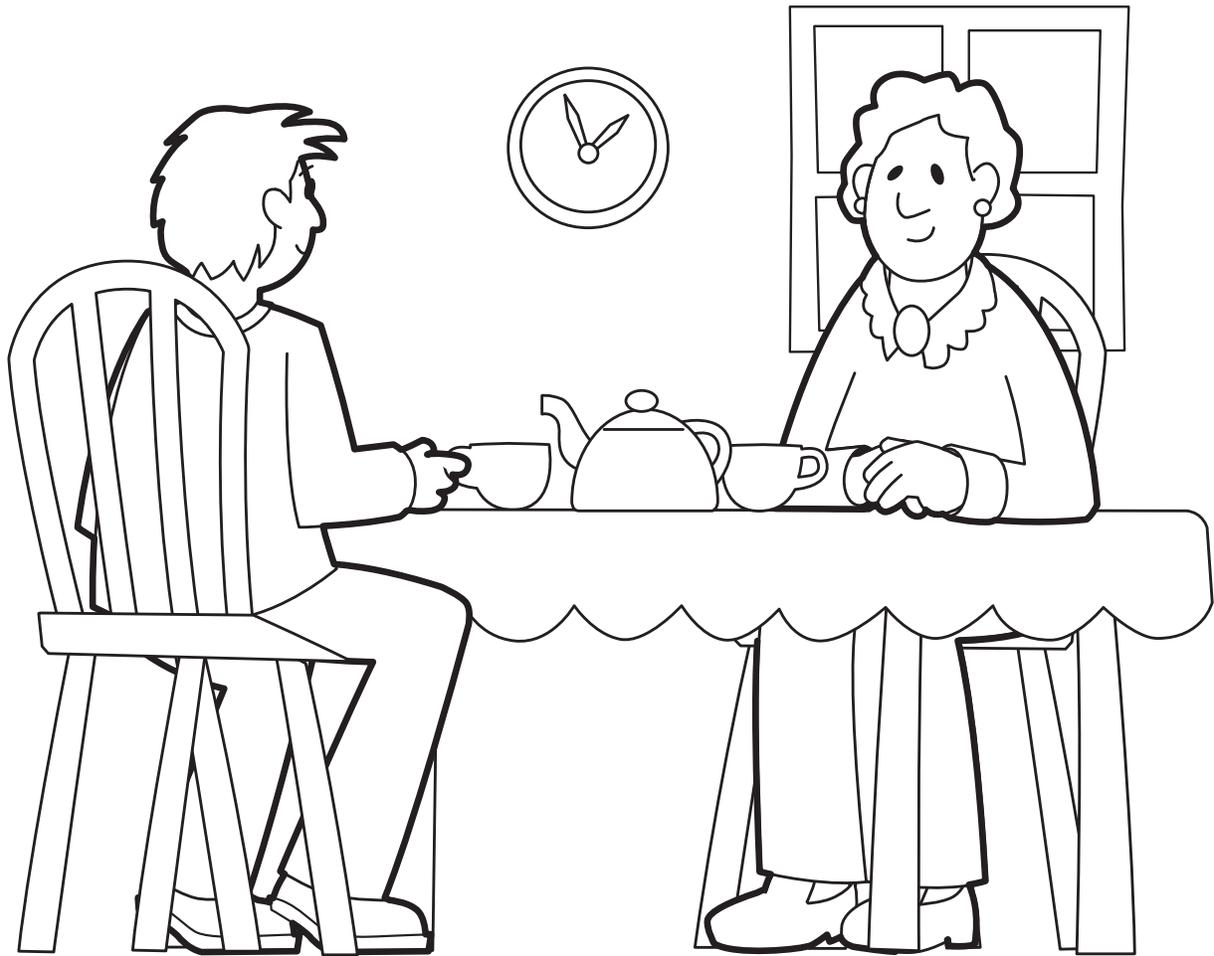
When he was putting graffiti on the house, an elderly woman walked out. She was very sad that her home was now destroyed.



She called the police and they arrested Chris.
He didn't know that graffiti is a serious crime.



Chris was in a
lot of trouble.

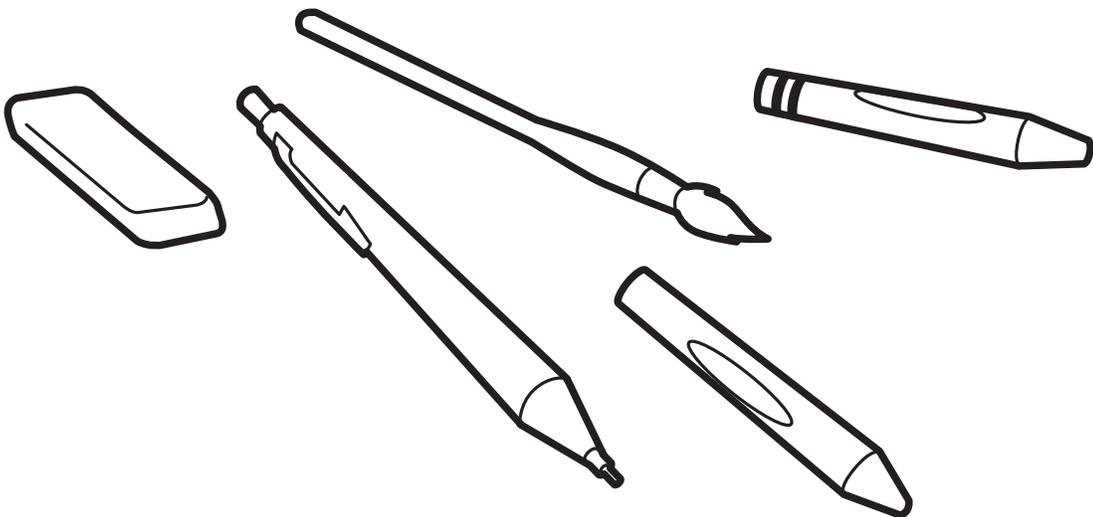


After he was sentenced to cleaning up graffiti for many months, he apologized to the elderly woman.

She told him that he could use his artistic talents for something other than destruction.



So Chris joined the art club at his school and could paint on something other than building walls.





He also joined forces with Pima County's
program to get rid of graffiti.

Every time he sees graffiti, he calls
792-TAAG (8224) and it gets cleaned up

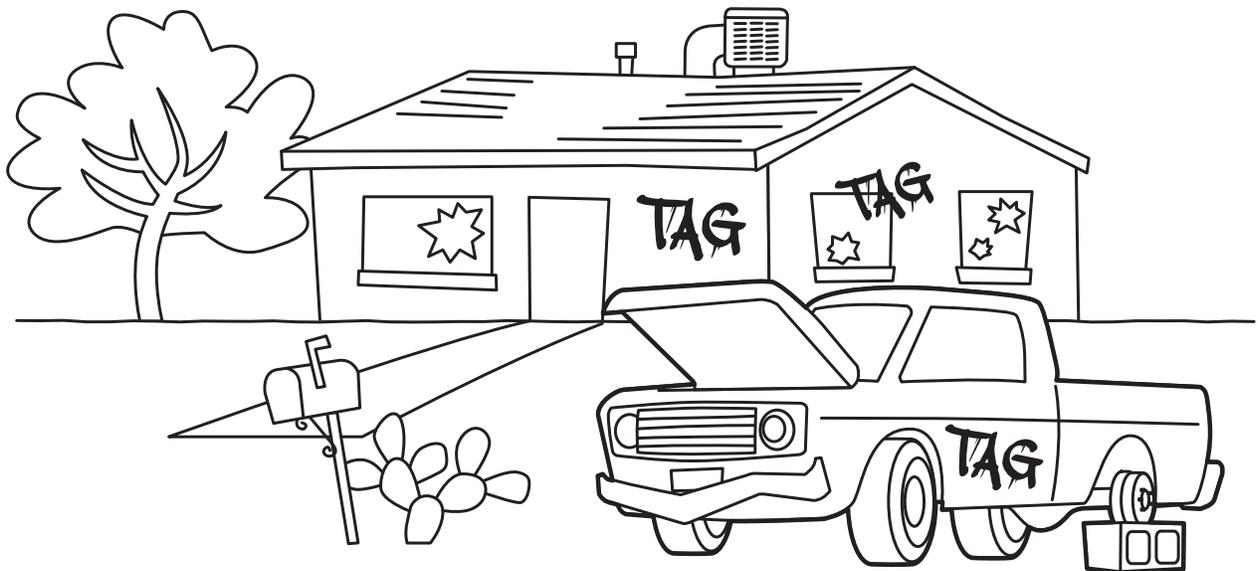


He even helps by volunteering after school to remove graffiti. Now Chris is a cool kid who doesn't tag and helps keep his community free of graffiti.

GRAFFITI FACTS



- Graffiti is a crime and 80% of graffiti is tagger or gang graffiti.
- Graffiti is the most common type of vandalism.
- Graffiti makes people feel like their neighborhoods are unsafe and being lost to gangs. If graffiti is not cleaned up, it invites others to tag.
- It is NEVER okay to put graffiti on someone else's property.
- The best way to prevent graffiti is to remove it immediately.
- When a tagger is caught, they can be fined or even spend time in jail.



GRAFFITI IS A CRIME!



Graffiti is a
crime and it destroys
our community!

Color in the words!

WORD SOLVE PUZZLE

Fill in the blanks with the words from this list:

Graffiti Parks Crime Gang TAAG
Vandalism Clean Hotline Tagger Paint

1. Someone who writes on walls is called a _____.
2. Graffiti isn't art. It's a _____.
3. _____ is words, drawings, or slogans that are painted on public or private surfaces.
4. Pima County's _____ program spends \$122,000 each year to control graffiti.
5. Graffiti is the most common form of _____.
6. Graffiti writers can be required to _____ graffiti for several months.
7. Some graffiti is done by _____ members.
8. More money could be spent on _____, if it weren't for graffiti.
9. Pima County may be able to provide free _____ for painting over graffiti.
10. The TAAG program's _____ is 792-TAAG (8224)

ANSWERS: 1. tagger 2. crime 3. graffiti 4. TAAG 5. vandalism
6. clean 7. gang 8. parks 9. parks 10. hotline

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

L T A G G E R U W C P
Z Q R H R S B D H A K
C T C L E A N J I L V
D L D M B L F X N L H
M E N F A S P F D E G
M H D T L I N E I I P
U N A C R I M E K T A
N D L T H W Y G A R I
I S S Q C R U Q J T N
T A A G F M I D H P T
Y C K M O P K S J N L

Find and circle these words:

GRAFFITI

CRIME

TAG

TAGGER

CLEAN

CHRIS

HELP

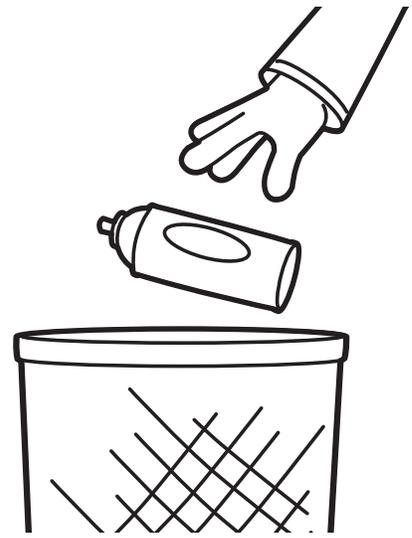
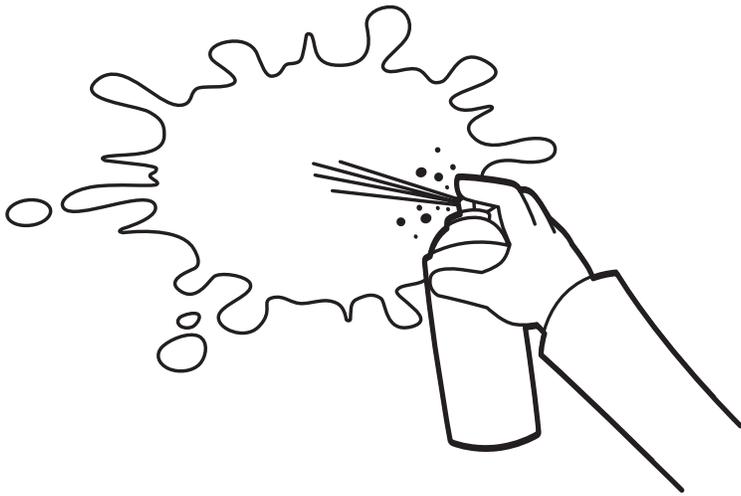
PAINT

CALL

HOTLINE

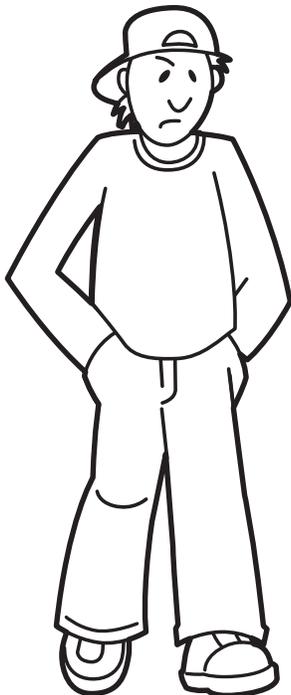
COMMUNITY

WHO ARE YOU MOST LIKE?



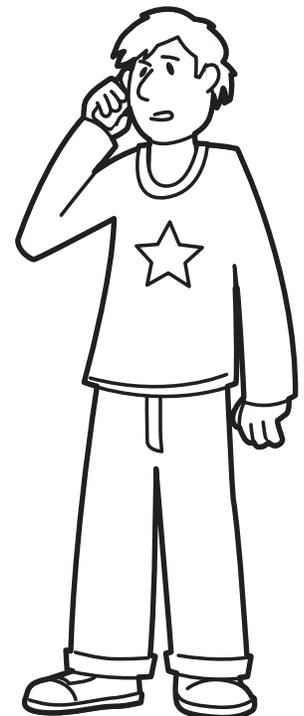
TAGGER CHRIS finds a can of spray paint and starts to tag other people's walls.

When HERO CHRIS finds a can of spray paint, he throws it away.



IF TAGGER CHRIS sees someone tagging, he ignores it and walks away.

IF HERO CHRIS sees someone tagging, he calls the police right away.



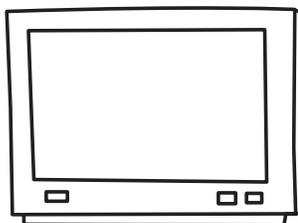
WHO ARE YOU MOST LIKE?



When TAGGER CHRIS sees graffiti on his way to the store, he says, "Wow. Cool art."



HERO CHRIS sees graffiti on his way to the store and calls the TAAG hotline so that it can be removed.



When TAGGER CHRIS doesn't have anything to do, he watches TV even though he thinks it's boring.

When HERO CHRIS doesn't have anything to do, he volunteers to remove graffiti with his neighbors.



Make the ANTI-TAGGER PLEDGE

I want my community to be clean and safe so

I, _____,
pledge to do all that I can to keep it clean
which also means not doing graffiti myself

NAME _____

DATE _____

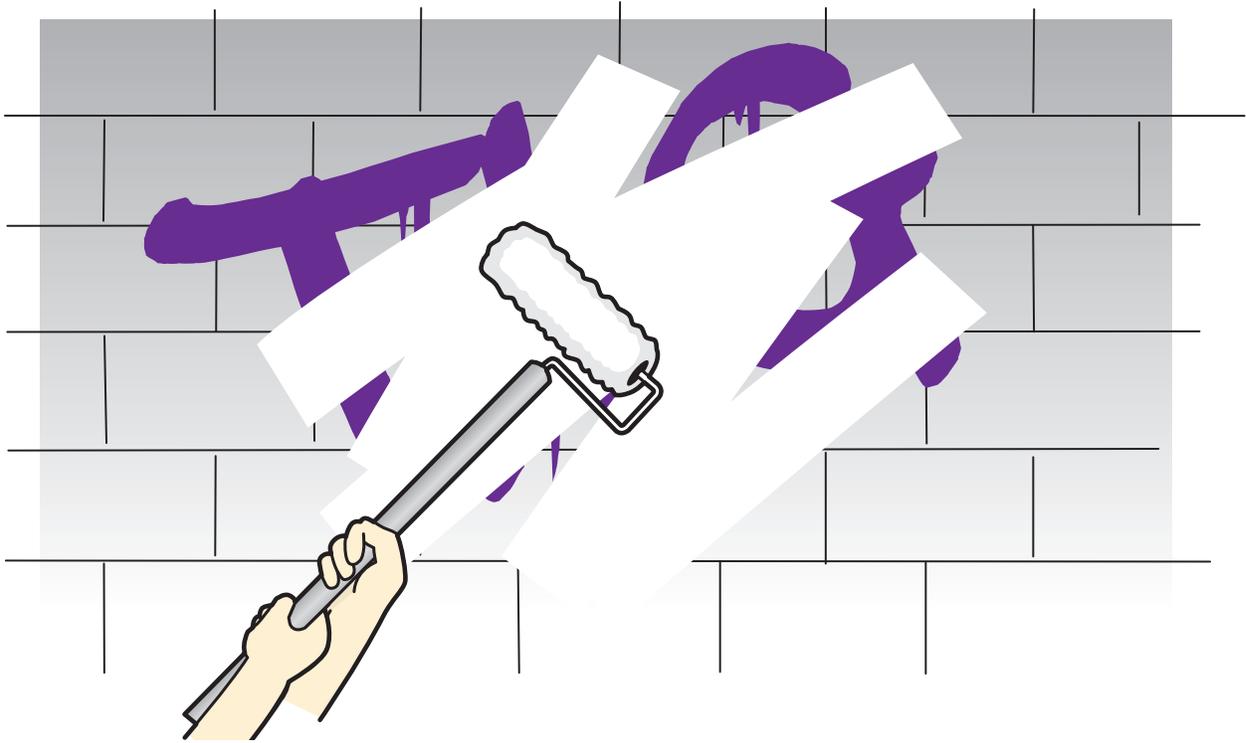
SIGNATURE _____



THE BEST WAYS TO PREVENT GRAFFITI

Share this ANTI-GRAFFITI information with your parents:

- Take action! If you witness Graffiti in progress call 911 immediately and report the incident.
- If you discover graffiti on your property contact the Pima County Sheriff's Department and file a police report. This can be done on-line at:
<http://www.pimasheriff.org/departments-services/>
- If you see graffiti on public property call Pima County's Taking Action Against Graffiti (TAAG) hotline at **792-8224 (TAAG)** and report it. See if graffiti removal assistance can be provided or remove the graffiti yourself.
- Remove Graffiti immediately, within 24 hours. This is the most effective prevention.
- Install lighting, or plant thorny shrubs around inviting surfaces that are tagging targets.
- Paint over surfaces with like colors. Using colors that don't match highlights the presence of graffiti in a neighborhood. Do not paint the outline of the graffiti but paint a section covering the graffiti.



Help us take care of graffiti in our community by using this information. Call Pima County Sheriff's Department at 911 if you catch graffiti in progress.

If you see graffiti and want it cleaned up, grab an adult and please call 792-TAAG (8224) or ask your parents to email pctaag@pima.gov

Thank you for helping keep our community clean!



Special Thanks to Amy Williams, Narrative, Journalism Student at Point Loma Nazarene University
Illustrations by Dave Burnham, Pima County Communications Office