Chapter 1

What Are the Causes of Juvenile Crime and Violence?

No single cause can be found for juvenile crime. Many teens who commit crimes are involved in gangs or have absent or neglectful parents.
Gang Membership Leads to Juvenile Crime

Melissa Klein

In the following viewpoint Melissa Klein identifies gang membership as one of the growing causes of juvenile violence. By definition, gangs are involved in criminal activity, Klein claims. Thus, when teens join gangs they invariably end up participating in criminal activity. Because the criminal activity of gangs so often leads to carrying weapons and turf disputes, gang members are often the perpetrators, as well as victims, of crime. Melissa Klein is a reporter for the New York Post.

AS YOU READ, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. According to the author, where is the most serious gang activity centered?
2. What percentage of teens surveyed in 2005 reported gangs in their schools, as stated by Klein?
3. According to the author, name the three types of media where gangs are glamorized.