

**Name:** XXXX

**Mentor:** XXXX

**Proposed Project:** Analysis and Application of Nation-wide Anti-violence Intervention and Prevention Programs to aid the SJU Antiviolence Committee

**Student's Preparatory Course Work:**

Violence and Aggression (Fall 2006)

Multicultural Psychology (Fall 2005)

Social Problems (Spring 2006)

**Background:**

As homicide rates in many large cities around the country are dropping, the numbers in Philadelphia have increased 11 percent from 2004 to 2005- one of the sharpest jumps in the United States. In 2005, Philadelphia police recorded 380 homicides, and in 2006, homicides rose another 6 percent to a total of 406 for the year. This destructive force undoubtedly affects the Saint Joseph's community, within the greater community of Philadelphia, as approximately 1/6 of all homicides in "The City of Brotherly Love" take place in the communities surrounding our campus. This increasing violence is even directly affecting the welfare of Saint Joseph's University students as two students were mugged at gun-point last semester. As a result of such violence, many students are not able to fully engage in the Philadelphia community due to safety concerns. Government leaders and community activists have taken initial steps in combating the escalating violence by establishing intervention and prevention programs throughout the city. These programs must, however, be further advanced to improve the welfare of our community members.

**Project:**

During the summer of 2007, XXXX, a junior psychology major, will work under the supervision of Dr. XXXX to provide an analysis and application of successful intervention and prevention programs established throughout the country. Examples of such programs consist of outreach for gangs, addicts, parents, children and teenagers, and involve an investigation of various fields including economics, education, sociology, psychology, and criminal justice. This research will be accomplished through the use of internet, books, communication through telephone, and by visiting local intervention and prevention programs. An outcomes assessment will aid the SJU antiviolence committee in reducing the violence of Philadelphia through the work of students, faculty, and community members

This research will address the following issues:

- Which long-term and short-term methods are providing the most success to limit violence within urban areas?
- How can successful programs be implemented in Philadelphia?
- How can the Saint Joseph's community, under the advice of the SJU Antiviolence Committee, commit and aid to a safer, more secure community?
- How can different groups related by age, ethnicity, and social class be better supported so that they can escape the ever-growing violence and in turn become contributing members to their communities?