

Exhibit 8.2. Less Directive Response

Writing 12
Chris B.
Second Rough Draft

Street Gangs: One Point of View

I'm writing this paper on street gangs because I was once part of one, and I feel that this gives me some authority to write a legitimate opinion.

I never asked or got out to join a gang, it just happened by association. I knew some guys who were members of the Cripps and by hanging around them I was sort of "taken in" by the gang and generally thought to be a part of them by everyone else.

Unlike some members I tried to maintain a low profile. I didn't provoke fights or do destructive things on purpose, but we had a strong bond. If one person was in trouble, no matter who or what kind it was, everyone was there regardless.

This sticking together almost always occurred in a physical sense. If one of our guys were to be beaten up, the rest of us would take a revenge of some sort, whether it be by beating someone up or vandalizing someones property, we always got even. That was a basic rule, nobody could "be one up on us", we always had to get even.

Except for this one occasion, I can't really remember us actually going out and starting trouble for no "reason". We were at the pool, and what we did was single out one person at a time. Once we had a target, one of us would go up to that certain someone and "sucker punch" him and before he could retaliate the rest of the gang would break it up.

Can you start with one specific experience drawn from your life with street gangs?

These things seem to deal with the issue of "maintaining" what else. Can you say about maintaining in the gang? Is there a way to make connections among these things?

What does this "suckin'" mean? What do you want your reader to know from this?

Source: Straub and Lunsford, 1995, p. 229.