2005 General Comprehensive Exam

Question 3

Community Psychology

Start a new blue book. On the cover of the blue book or on the top of the computer page, write: the digits of your student number as listed on the brown envelope; Question 3, General Exam; and the date. If using a computer, use no more than six pages (10-point) double-spaced. If writing, use no more than twenty single-sided pages.

Question 3. A community is concerned about an increasing level of violence among teenagers. The mayor, superintendent of schools, chief of police, city-wide PTA president, and head of the chamber of commerce convene to address the situation. After hours of fruitless discussion, they contact you for some guidance by a professional psychologist regarding how to handle the situation.

1. How would you initially work with the group?

2. How would you help them to better understand different ways in which social environments trigger, cause, exacerbate, or maintain violence? What theories would you draw upon to help you?

3. Using the concept of "best practices," what are some CP intervention programs or strategies you might want them to consider? Identify two different settings (municipal government, schools, police, parents, business, etc.); and for each setting, identify two potential interventions at two different ecological levels. Use the literature to justify each of your recommendations. Be sure to identify pitfalls, or conditions under which the approaches you suggest may run into difficulty.