

## Current Event Analysis – Global Studies

Mr Bartholomew

### Week 6 Lessons 1 & 2

# From Auckland Headboy & Rugby Star to Gang Drug-Runner



**Read the article about the popular Auckland student who seemingly had everything going for him – then it all fell apart when he got involved with a gang.**

**Task 1:** You can access and read the article here:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/300742389/home-detention-for-golden-boy-rugby-player-who-ran-drugs-for-comancheros>

1. We all have push and pull factors in our lives – factors that push us to do good things, help others, study, and do the right thing. We also have pull factors that pull us towards doing the wrong thing.

a. Identify some of the factors that appear to have led Lemeki Namoa astray.

b. Identify factors that could have helped him to have become an upstanding citizen.

Write a letter to a friend of yours who is hanging out with the wrong crowd and is being pressured to take part in a ram raid. Based on what happened to Lemeki and using your own life experiences, what advice would you give your friend?

2. Create a poster that is intended to inspire someone to get their life on track after hanging out with the wrong crowd ('wrong' = who routinely break the law); they may even have gotten involved in a gang.

In creating your poster – look up information as to why some kids join gangs. The article below about push and pull factors in joining a gang, should help you:

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## Risk and Protective Factors in Joining a Gang

Risk factors encourage or increase the likelihood of youth participating in gangs; whereas a protective factor acts as a buffer in the presence of risk factors.

Most kids who become affiliated with gangs lack positive role models. Research also indicates a close link between gang involvement and criminal activity such as drug use. Findings indicate that kids who engage in alcohol and drug abuse, are more likely to join gangs and that, as a result of gang involvement, youth are more likely to use illicit drugs and alcohol.

Risk factors that significantly affect someone's chance for gang-involvement include the following:

- Being violent, especially at a young age
- Academic failure,
- Lack of school connectedness,
- A high absenteeism rate in school and dropping out of school,
- Frequently change schools,
- Brothers & sisters who were in trouble with the law
- Friends who were in gangs or who ran foul of the law,
- Poverty,
- Substance use (taking illegal drugs and alcohol),
- Exposure to violence and racial prejudice.

Research suggests that the greater the number of risk factors that a youth experiences, the more likely he or she is to join a gang. It also shows that a youth's risk for gang involvement significantly increases as he or she has more than two risk factors. Therefore, prevention programs that target risk factors can help. Efforts to minimize youth gang involvement can be addressed through promoting protective factors. Research suggests that as youth accumulate more protective factors it lowers the risk of gang involvement.

Protective factors that have been identified as influential to youth gang involvement include:

- Parental involvement and monitoring,
- Family support,
- Coping skills (interpersonal skills),
- Positive social connections,
- Peer support,
- Academic achievement, and
- Reducing delinquency, alcohol, and drug use.