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Final Paper Outline

Research Question:

**How and why does illicit drug-use curtail and/or extend adolescence in Latin America? How is this different than illicit drug-use in the United States?**

Introduction:

1. Define adolescence, when it begins and ends.
2. Why Latin America?
3. Extensive and pervasive drug-trade in Latin America
4. Illicit drug-use and its prevalence with adolescents
5. Briefly give an overview of each of the topics that will be discussed in the essay
   1. The brain and drug-use
   2. Drug-trade in Latin America
   3. Impacts on childhood and culture/tradition
   4. Illicit drug-use Latin American vs. the United States

Topic 1: The neurological effects of drug use in relation to the changing mind of an adolescent.

Topic 2: The drug-trade in Latin America, its influence in gang violence, and its impact on youth.

1. Specifically focusing on Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico
2. Gang violence and how it influences children

Topic 3: The impacts on childhood and the culture of Latin America, and how this affects adolescence.

Topic 4: Illicit drug-use in adolescents in the United States in comparison to those in Latin America.

1. Sources of the drugs? Prevalence and availability.
2. Where the drug-trade occurs: inner city/universities vs. slums/shanty towns/prisons?

Conclusion:

1. Does illicit drug-use curtail adolescence in Latin America? How does this compare with illicit drug-use in the United States?
2. What does this say about adolescence and illicit drug-use?
3. What does this say about adolescence as a whole?

Sources:

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3. Shifter, Michael. (2007). “Latin America’s Drug Problem.”
4. Pinheiro, Paulo Sergio. (2007) “Youth, Violence, and Democracy.”
5. Wallace, John M. Jr. and Bachman, Jerald G. (1991). “Explaining Racial/Ethnic Differences in Adolescent Drug Use: The Impact of Background and Lifestyle.”
6. Zaluar, Alba. “The Drug Trade, Crime and Policies of Repression in Brazil.”
7. Hoffer, Lee. (2006) “Review of Something Dangerous: Emergent and Changing Illicit Drug Use and Community Health.”