

Name _____ **Conflicting Information**



The Big Mixup!

DIRECTIONS: Read the two texts. Identify the conflicting information. Write whether each instance is a conflict of fact or of interpretation.

1. IS WASHINGTON D.C. SAFE?

Washington D.C. has a crime rate of 60 crimes per every one thousand residents, which is one of the highest crime rates in the country when compared to all towns and cities of all sizes. Chances of becoming a victim of either violent or property crime in Washington D.C. is one in 17. But when you compare D.C. to communities of similar population, its crime rate is significantly lower than average. Compared to cities of the same size around the country, according to FBI crime data, drawn from 17,000 local law enforcement agencies reporting on both violent and property crime, Washington D.C. is actually safer.

2. TOO SOON TO SAY "SAFE"

In 2012, when comparing murder rates in cities with 500,000 or more residents, Washington D.C. ranked number eight. In 2013, however, Washington D.C. didn't even make the top ten. According to the Metropolitan Police Chief, there were 88 murders in D.C. in 2012, a figure which does not include the four victims whose deaths were determined to have been in self-defense. This data indicates that for every 100,000 residents, nearly 14 were murdered. Detroit, which reported 54 murders per 100,000 people in 2012 was number one on the list in 2013, with Baltimore, reporting 35 murders per 100,000 people coming in at number two. When asked if D.C. residents could credit recent changes in the Metropolitan Police Department with making their city safer, an FBI representative who asked not to be named stated, "Ranking cities based on crime statistics is problematic, since crimes consist of many factors that make it hard to compare each city according to its statistics alone." His statement suggests that despite not making the top ten list for murders, calling D.C. a "safe" place to live at this point would be premature.
