Should cities encourage and embrace graffiti as a form of urban art and expression? Write a persuasive essay arguing in favour of this position, addressing potential counterarguments. **(500 Words)**

Imagine a world where all walls are painted with unwanted objects, where property owners are frustrated about unexpected drawings that appear every now and then. Graffiti is not a modern phenomenon; humans have been etching vibrant marks on walls since prehistoric times. From ancient cave paintings to modern fences, wall art has long served as a powerful medium for cultural expression and historical documentation. Nowadays, in our cities, graffiti has been dotting along almost every wall outside. We must ban graffiti since it creates vandalism, costs money to remove, and impacts how the community is perceived.

Imagine a world where all walls are painted with unwanted objects, where property owners are frustrated with unexpected drawings that appear every now and then. Graffiti is not a modern phenomenon; humans have been etching vibrant marks on walls since prehistoric times. From ancient cave paintings to modern fences, wall art has always dominated the fences of many people’s yards. Nowadays, in our cities, graffiti has been dotting along buildings outside and difficult to wipe out, like cancer permeating through our society. This view of random paintings does not harmonise with city view. By banning graffiti, we can put an end to vandalism, the impact it has on our community, and the environmental damage it creates.

Graffiti creates vandalism. How would you feel if you had your own wall bombarded with artworks that you never asked for? Well, that’s how owners of houses with graffiti are feeling. Graffiti is usually done without any consent, making it illegal and put in the category of vandalism. This not only leads to legal repercussions for the people who painted it, but also decreases the trust owners have to strangers. The act of ruining public or private property without any permission is disrespectful and breaks the law. It also forces owners to use their own money to remove the painting from their houses. Wouldn’t that feel bad trying to pay for something you didn’t do? Opponents may argue that this might mean that people can’t share their feelings through graffiti, but we can make a place where graffiti is allowed, just like the graffiti tunnel in the University of Sydney. The tunnel provides a legal space for crews of artists to express themselves without fear of arrest or fines. This freedom encourages more elaborate and experimental works and discourages the artists from painting on people’s buildings, therefore reducing vandalism.

Guerrilla art also impacts how the community is perceived. Imagine living in a city where every second wall is painted with unwanted figures. Wouldn’t people think that the city was filthy, ruining the city’s reputation? For example, part of Los Angeles, USA was thought badly of its random graffiti art on building walls. The city had to spend millions of dollars buffing the graffiti to revive the city’s name. Graffiti can harm a city’s reputation and how everyone thinks about it.

The aerosol sprays in graffiti paint harms the environment. Research has shown that the population of animals has significantly decreased as an effect of graffiti painting. Would you like to live in an environment where the air is polluted with aerosol chemicals? This environmental impact adds another layer of concern to the issue of graffiti.

With all this in mind, graffiti is inherently disrespectful and illegal, and it should definitely be banned. Graffiti creates vandalism, ruins the community’s reputation, and also damages the environment. Let’s put ourselves in other people’s shoes and create sympathy for others, this can enhance our town’s pride.