

***SOCA Undergraduate Symposium 2021***  
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Community Policing in America

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**ABSTRACT**

Community policing is a key aspect to any police department, in fact it is essential and necessary for police to engage in their communities in a positive light, as to minimize the disassociation that a department can have with its community and vice versa. A community needs to and must be able to entrust its local police, many communities in rural and small towns across America do, however the same cannot be said for larger and urban environments such as cities. This paper will examine the crux of community policing, outreach programs, partnering with local businesses, shared problem solving, etc. Police must interact with communities in order to upkeep the relationship, communication is key. The standard of community policing must be the same throughout the country. Communities must hold police accountable as well as police must hold themselves accountable. Police should undergo more training for things such as mental health, communication, and de-escalation tactics, Mechanisms such as coupling and default to truth theory present in Gladwell's "Talking to Strangers". Mechanisms such Police accountability and oversight is important as ever in the current state of policing.