



Do the Write Thing

Canton

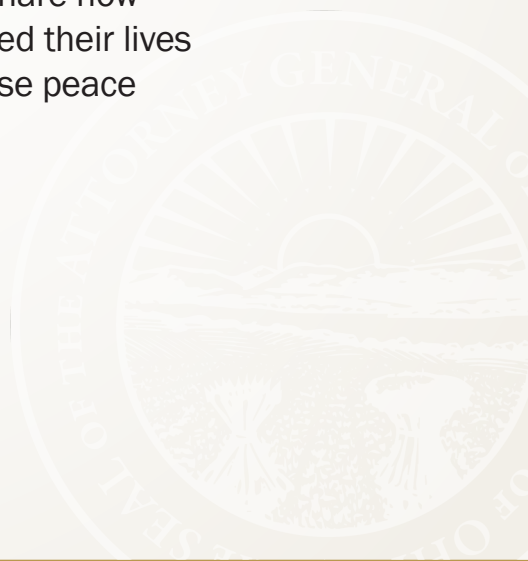


2022

Canton City School District
middle-schoolers share how
violence has touched their lives
and how they choose peace



DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

As Ohio's Attorney General, I am so pleased to have partnered with the Canton City School District for the *Do the Write Thing* program. In the district's first year to participate in the program, Canton students hit it out of the park!

I am amazed by the passion, thoughtfulness and self-awareness these middle-school students brought to their writings. Their words are powerful, and their commitment to making this world a better place is inspiring.

Talking about violence isn't easy. But shining light on the uncomfortable reality in many of our homes, schools and communities is critical to turning the tide and creating a brighter tomorrow. These students are our future, and we need to listen to their voices. In Canton, we hear you loud and clear!

I encourage everyone to take time to read the essays in this book. You may be surprised by what you learn, but I know the students' work will leave you proud and optimistic about the generations to come.



Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "D" and a cursive "Yost".

DAVE YOST
Ohio Attorney General

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

I am so pleased to say that the Canton City School District had nearly 500 students participate in the “Do the Write Thing” Challenge. This activity gave middle school students an outlet to communicate, both in classroom discussions and in writing, how violence impacts their daily lives.

The City of Canton has many challenges when it comes to poverty and crime. Our students are growing up in a time when violence and conflict are in their faces daily for many reasons. With a 24-hour news cycle and social media, hearing about it is unavoidable, but many of our students are seeing it in their neighborhoods and feeling its effects personally.

As part of this contest, students were asked to explore how violence affects their daily life, the causes of youth violence in Canton, and what they can do to reduce it.

I want to thank our students for digging deep and sharing their honest and raw stories. Writing is a wonderful way to work through feelings and thoughts about our personal experiences. Our students are already making an impact by expressing themselves and sharing their passion and courage through their essays.

I also would like to thank Attorney General Dave Yost and his staff for sponsoring this challenge and inviting our district to participate. Through the challenge, many adults have had their eyes opened for the first time to what our students experience daily, but our teachers and staff in the buildings know. They too deserve our gratitude as they support and empathize with students who have different perspectives on violence.

Congratulations to our finalists and to our two winners. I look forward to the two ambassadors representing us in Washington, D.C., and learning more about other perspectives on the causes and effects of violence and how to reduce it in our community.

Sincerely,

JEFF TALBERT

Superintendent

Canton City School District



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This book contains a compilation of writings by Canton City School District middle-school students who were selected as the top 18 finalists of the 2022 Canton *Do the Write Thing* program. This book will be shared across the community in recognition of all the students who accepted the challenge to share their voices and help create a safer, more peaceful society.

Overview of Do the Write Thing

Do the Write Thing is a unique national program designed to give middle-school students an outlet to communicate in classroom discussions and then in writing how violence impacts their daily lives. In addition to exposing the causes and effects of violence, students are asked to share their ideas for how to reduce violence in their community.

The program asks students to express in stories, poems and songs, or any other written forms the violence they've faced, with an emphasis on exploring key questions:

- How does violence affect your daily life?
- What are some of the causes of youth violence in your community?
- What can you as an individual do to reduce youth violence in your community?

The benefits of the challenge are many. Students gain a greater empathy and understanding for victims of violence and realize that their positive actions can make a difference in their own home, schools, and neighborhoods. Teachers gain a better awareness of what is happening in their students' lives and in the school culture. Community leaders benefit from greater understanding of the impact that violence has on youth and learn from the students' stories and ideas for reducing violence.

Do the Write Thing in Canton, Ohio

During the 2021-22 school year, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost partnered with the Canton City School District for the *Do the Write Thing* program. The program, in its second year in Ohio, was well received, with nearly 500 seventh- and eighth-grade students submitting essays.

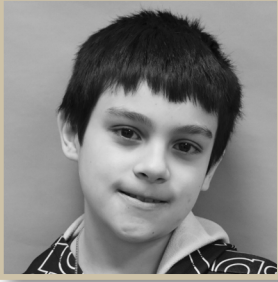
Canton community and business leaders volunteered their time to read each essay and choose the 18 submissions most responsive to the key questions. From the top 18, two students were selected to become Ohio ambassadors to the national *Do the Write Thing* conference in Washington, D.C.

A special thank you to all of the community volunteers, teachers, principals and school administrators who helped make *Do the Write Thing* such a great success in Canton.



Do the Write Thing is the flagship program of the National Campaign to Stop Violence and has been in existence for 27 years. It operates programs in 28 cities in 17 states. Over the past 27 years, more than 1.2 million middle school students have participated in the program.

National sponsors include the Kuwait-America Foundation, the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science, the Marriott Foundation and Southwest Airlines.



ESSAY 1

TYLER ALFAS

Early College Middle School

Imagine how would you feel being bullied or harassed because of being different or others around you being peer pressured. This is what it is like for victims of youth violence. Thousands of people are victims of youth violence every day and it leaves a negative impact on the community. The rate of violence is different across all groups and communities based on factors like different amounts of protection and the environment. Youth violence has impacted my life negatively and there are also certain factors that cause youth violence, but there are also ways we can stop youth violence.

First, youth violence has impacted my life in a negative way by hurting others that are close to me. My first example is my little brother. He is autistic and doesn't have a lot of friends at school and is sometimes bullied. I am close and friends with him and it upsets me when he is bullied simply because he is different. The second example was a neighbor who I was friends with when I lived in South Carolina. He was also often bullied because he couldn't talk normally despite being very nice and fun to be around. He was one of my closest friends too and it will negatively impact your life when people you are close to are mistreated for simply being different.

Next, there are several factors that cause youth violence. According to "Risk and Protective Factors" it states, "Biological and personal history factors can increase the likelihood of becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence. Risk factors at the family level include: authoritarian child rearing attitudes, low parental involvement, poor family functioning, and parental substance abuse or history of criminal involvement." In other words, this shows many reasons why youth violence occurs. Biological factors

such as being born with a disorder or personal history like excessive drinking can cause youth violence. Issues in a family and substance abuse can cause youth violence and these reasons are shown throughout communities all the time which is why there is a lot of youth violence.

Finally, there are ways we can prevent youth violence from occurring. According to "youth.gov" it says, "Other factors can buffer young people from the risks of becoming violent... These include academic achievement, high educational aspirations, positive social orientation, and highly developed social skills/competencies. Protective factors that can reduce the risk of violence include connectedness to family or other caring adults... positive engagement with teachers in supportive school climates..."

To clarify, the article states many factors that we can use to reduce youth violence. These include social, parental, and academic factors. We can help young people with social skills, and close and positive relationships with their parents or teacher. Another factor can be to help them gain and achieve academic achievement, and any aspirations they have.

As you can see, youth violence has impacted my life negatively and there are also certain factors that cause youth violence, but there are also ways we can stop youth violence. My life was affected by youth violence because people I'm close to were bullied and hurt because they are different. There are factors that can cause youth violence such as biological and parental issues. Last, having positive relationships, and having academic achievement or goals can help reduce the risk of youth violence. Youth violence is caused, and hurts people for a multitude of reasons but there is also ways to prevent it.



ESSAY 2

DAISHAWN ALLEN

Crenshaw Middle School

Youth violence is a big issue in the world and it's everywhere around us. Youth violence causes bullying, fighting, and drama. Violence can make people scared to live their lives and do their daily things. It's a scary thing that you can avoid.

Youth violence is caused by many things like having no friends, bullying, fighting, and things on social media like Instagram, Snapchat, tiktok, and Facebook. Even many other things can cause youth violence like being poor, gun violence, not having a close adult that you can trust, and being jealous. It's always best to try to avoid this violence so you don't get yourself into certain situations that you can't get out of and so you can be sure you're safe. Youth violence has affected my life too. It makes me feel unsafe and makes me feel unprotected. Sometimes it's sad hearing about what happened or seeing how people close to me react to it. And people

shouldn't be scared for their own safety and for their own lives over violence. And there's always new stories on the news about something that happened which is not okay.

But everyone should try their best to stop this violence. You can always say something on the iPads. There's an app to report stuff. You can also tell a teacher or a parent or an adult. Remember to always pay attention to other people to make sure your safety is okay. Always make sure you're nice to others and try not to be the mean one or a bully. Always be a positive person and a good friend.

Youth violence might be a bad thing and it might be scary, but try your best to avoid it and make the best out of situations. Always try to think positive and make sure you tell someone about anything.



ESSAY 3

KORTEZE BROWN

Crenshaw Middle School

Gang violence has affected my life in many ways. One way gang violence has affected my life is that members of my family and several of my friends have died due to gang violence. Most people don't want to be in gangs, but I was born into that lifestyle growing up. Being around gangs teaches you a lot, like you should always watch your surroundings, keep a small friend group with only people you trust, and to live your life while you can. I think one reason kids join gangs is because they don't have good parents, or their families don't have enough for what the person feels is needed. Some people rely on gang money. Sometimes gangs aren't created or formed to kill or hurt anybody/other gangs, but loyalty goes a long way. I read an article that said homicide is the third leading cause of death for young people ages 10-24. This relates to me because everyone I know that has died wasn't even thirty years of age. It's sad people die from gun violence at a young age.

I believe we can help prevent youth violence, but it starts with the parents. If parents are struggling then their youth are also going to struggle. Most youth violence reflects off of their parents, for example some kids don't get a meal to eat every night or day because their parents don't have that stuff at their house. Some kids will try to get it on their own. This can be robbing, stealing, and other crimes. When that happens they do not mean to harm people, but things can escalate very quickly.

One way my community can stop youth violence is to find ways to help families be better. We need to promote family environments that support healthy developments. Most youth violence comes from their parents. If the parents are struggling, the youth are too. We have to help families.



ESSAY 4

MARLEIGH CURTIS

Early College Middle School

"We can only win over the opponent by LOVE, never by hate. Hate is the subtlest form of violence. We cannot truly be non-violent and yet have violence in us." — Mahatma Gandhi

Youth violence — something that many have experienced and seen as teens and kids including myself. We just cannot bring ourselves to prevent such a devastating thing that causes deaths everywhere. "We can only win over the opponent by love." That line will stay with me forever because that is what I know to be true.

Youth violence. Shootings, bullying, verbal and physical abuse, domestic violence, and rape. Youth violence is all of these things, but we still cannot bring ourselves to try and prevent this violence that happens in everyday life and these are things that make me so devastated.

Youth violence. We've all experienced it one way or another, whether we live in gated communities, the projects, or in between that. We can see these things unfold before our eyes every day and every day it gets scarier and scarier than the last because who knows when you could be the person who experiences it next?

Youth violence. Something I've experienced too. It's scary to watch your mom get abused by her boyfriend who she thought loved her. It hurts to be in fear that one day he'll do the same to me. It hurts that I live in fear that he is going to get intoxicated and hurt me or my mom again and teens and kids live in that fear every day that maybe, just maybe, something might happen to them and that alone makes me ashamed of what we have come to be. It's very hard and upsetting to hear a gunshot go off two alleyways down from my home and then hear that a little girl was shot by a little boy playing with his father's gun, not knowing that it was loaded, ready to take a life.

Youth violence. Why do people do these things? It could be because they were pressured or persuaded by a "trustworthy" friend to hurt someone to gain more trust. "Hurt this person and I'll be your best friend," they say. And in the end, is it really worth it? Or maybe someone isn't in the right mind and feels the need to hurt someone to make them feel better or to fill a void in their heart. "Maybe if I physically hurt someone, this hole that I have inside may be filled," they say. But is it ever really worth it? Or maybe they are just angry. "I'm upset and angry and need someone or something to unleash that anger." But in the end, is it really worth it?

Youth violence. It may all seem bad, but there are ways to help stop all the violence and heartbreak friends and families go through and the pain that me and other kids have gone through and could be going through. We could prevent these things from happening by thinking about how our choices and actions can affect someone's life and understanding that we can prevent this by instead choosing to think and pause and find out why it has come to us hurting other people and realize this is not how we should do things. We just need to look at what things have come to and see this isn't the path we should be taking. Sometimes thinking isn't an option and people do these things without thought. To be honest, I feel that the violence will never calm down. The more people who acknowledge that they might need help with violence and stop hurting people, the more we help them to stop the violence they are creating and make our life and society better for mostly young teens.

"Replace the violence that goes on in the world with the love that you share to the people that you love." — Marleigh Curtis



ESSAY 5

TRYNATEA HALL

Early College Middle School

Youth Violence is a big thing but not really talked about as much right now, but it should be. It affects a lot of young and older people which is very sad and not okay. When my teacher had asked what do we think about when we hear the word violence, people gave examples like racism, bullying, rape, and more. Which is kinda crazy because there should never be that many words related to violence. There shouldn't even be that many violent things on Earth - it's unacceptable. How has violence affected my life? When I first got asked that question, my head turned to the one most violent thing that happened in my life which was abuse.

Abuse is common in some people and it causes a lot of traumatic events and could even leave you traumatized. Abuse is never okay and I wouldn't wish that harm onto anyone else ever. I got in trouble a lot when I was a child only because I had accidents, which is normal. What isn't normal is the way I got punished, I mean everyone gets disciplined and some people get spanked. When I was little I got beat, slammed, I got hit with wood, switches, belts, etc. I had to do squats as a punishment sometimes or even stand in the corner for hours. Sometimes I got punished for no reason and at this time I was the youngest so for me it wasn't fun being the youngest at all. It wasn't always me that got beat, sometimes it was my older brother, or my step siblings, or even my mom. Witnessing my family members getting beat hurt me so much and changed me a lot today. No one should ever have to go through that pain of seeing your family getting beat because it hurts a lot. Most of the time it was my step dad, and I know, like why wouldn't my mom just leave? Well it was way harder at that time and my mom was barely home because she was the one making the money in the house so she was working 24/7. Which is even harder because she missed out on a lot, and a lot of things were kept a secret from her because that's what we were told to do. Even though the things that were going on in my home were rough, I still got good grades, and was the top in my classes. Sometimes I did get in trouble at school, but I was a child. That's just how being a child you get in trouble and get the consequences. Abuse isn't good and it isn't fun. It could cause people to do crazy things and hurt other people because of what they're going through at home. Thankfully it didn't affect me and my brothers the way it may affect others.

What are the causes of Youth Violence? Well there's a lot of causes, like rape, bullying, traumatic events, drug use, alcohol use, depression, etc. None of these things I just mentioned are ever okay which makes it sad that those are the reason that most teens are dying, and killing themselves, and not having interest in school, or bullying people in school. Causes of violence lead to more violence sometimes, and people barely notice that others are going through things to make them reduce to violence. It's like when people go through things that are harmful, they tend to put harm's way in others just to make them feel better, which sometimes they think its building them up, but its just tearing them and that person that they are picking on apart. Gang violence is a really big part and cause of why teens are dying on the streets today. I mean people have their morals and they do stuff that was passed down from generation to another which is normal. But no one likes to hear every once in a while that their friend, classmate, or even family member has died due to anything. Especially now with Covid, people are dying left and right due to the things humans are causing which is sickening. You never know what people are going through at home, it's easy to laugh and smile at school or public places. Then people go home and cry and deal with pressure or depression. The things you say can harm someone else's life you may not know, but you don't need to know that they're going through something cause that's not your business.

What can I do to reduce youth violence? I can do alot of things, but you can't change something as big as youth violence with one person. It would take someone to stand up and say "This isn't right," and I could be that person and so can others. I think I should pay more attention to other people because people could plan something big like a school shooting and you would never know because you're not paying attention to others. Always watch your surroundings. People get bullied right in front of others' eyes and say nothing about it and laugh as they are getting bullied. Some people even get snatched and no one even has the decency to say something. We need to speak up and take caution over big things like that because if we don't, nothing is going to get better, nothing will change, and this will all be pointless. We can't preach about being kind to one another and be tired of having people die left and right due



to youth violence, but don't try to help the situation. Counseling is good but I feel like if someone is telling you about their problems and trusts you, the counselor shouldn't go and tell their parents unless they are telling you that they are scared, or gonna kill themselves or kill someone. It's okay to not want to do counseling, no one should have to tell their business. People should always feel like they have someone. The counselor should give them advice. Simple things like

having someone to talk to could help a person a lot more than people think. Also if they don't want you to know they shouldn't be forced to tell you. People will sometimes tell someone that they can trust or count on. That's why I think we should at least hear people out and listen to their stories, because even bad people go through bad things. Everyone has been through something that has changed their lives. Help them be better, so we can all be better.



ESSAY 6

JASIRA HARRIS

Early College Middle School

Why do I have to suffer from others' past mistakes?
 Why do we have to suffer from others' past mistakes?
 Generation after generation errors are repeated.
 The future is in danger and not many can pinpoint the problem.
 Even if they can, their response is what really matters.
 We learn about so many things, yet don't put them to use.
 For example the Bystander Effect.
 It's not like it's my problem.
 With all these people here someone's bound to do something.
 You can help but choose not to.
 Why?
 We watched a video touching on these things.
 Diffusion of Responsibility.
 How in groups people are less likely to help each other.
 As they tend to shift responsibility.
 Or it takes longer for them to act than those in smaller groups.

Empathy.
 The ability to understand someone on an emotional level.
 The ability to connect psychologically.
 Obviously most people can show empathy.
 But how many actually use this skill in day to day life

It's easy to dismiss things like this.
 Like when I was in the third grade.
 A few girls would pick on me.
 Call me names.
 Taking and breaking things that meant a lot to me.
 I didn't speak up at first because I felt intimidated.
 One of them was really big for their age which made me submit to their antics.
 No one stood up to stop them.
 Even if they were also a target for the girls.
 Releasing the pent up emotions behind their backs.

Never daring to freely express them.
 However every balloon has a limit.
 And I'd reached mine.
 When one of my drawings was torn up by them.
 Art was the only thing that provided me a sense of comfort then.
 It was the only thing attaching me to my favorite person.
 My sister.

Due to a series of unfortunate events.
 I had to move houses.
 At first it was fine.
 But things increasingly became difficult after I moved the second time.
 As the oldest I had more responsibilities.
 I had to be an example.
 And since my house was on the traditional and religious side
 I was expected to behave a certain way.
 Things I partook in always had something to do with my assigned sex.
 I hated it.
 I felt stressed.
 I became violent.
 I was very irritable so I used to argue a lot with my guardians.
 I took a turn for the worst behavior-wise and mentally.

This led to me becoming antisocial.
 I didn't like to talk with my family.
 So when I did talk it always caused some feud.
 In a way it became the way I talk.
 Arguing was one of the only ways I could barely express myself through.
 However my pleas meant nothing.
 As a child.
 I am to follow what the adults say without question.
 Things I did were always misunderstood.



To the point where I actually began to rebel.
So when my counselor suggested another solution to my problems I took it desperately.

I wanted to change.
I needed to change.

And everything went fine for a little while.
That was until I slipped up and neglected my duties once.
She brings it up all the time.
Now I can never be trusted.
I felt my hard work was all wasted.
So I relapsed.
Now we're back at square one.

Things continued on like this until my older sister came over.
She was nice to me so I liked her.
She liked to draw so now I did as well.
Wanting some sort of connection with her.
I picked something I once thought was boring.
I was happy in her company.

I felt understood.
Although I couldn't sympathize with her she could.
I felt as if the last piece of the puzzle was finally found and ready to be placed.
She barely visited so when she did it filled me with joy.
She helped me improve and gave me confidence in my work.
I would show my latest work when she came and she would compliment it.
So when one of my only connections that meant something to me was being stripped.
I felt I was getting farther away from such a feeling.
I had to do something.
So I did.
I eventually told my guardian and she told the school.
They contacted her parents and she was handled.
She was mad at me but could do anything.

The rest of my days with her were much calmer.
Problem solved.

Kinda.
That was only one of many problems.
I still am getting help.

The future seems less dim for me.
During my time struggling in school and at home I hurt many people.
Mentally and physically.
The ones who hurt me were also harmed mentally and psychically.
Maybe it was the environment they were in.
Growing up black in Alabama isn't the easiest.
Especially when the people around you influence you to do bad things.
Going into the military also isn't the best.
Having to raise multiple kids also isn't easy.
So why don't they ever get help when there's clearly a problem?
Maybe they feel they don't need it.
I know many people in my community who believe so or don't believe at all.

My family could've chosen to take me out of counseling but they didn't.
They could have chosen to limit my contact with some other family members but they didn't.
They don't really take mental illness seriously.
You're either crazy or not.
Knowing that I don't understand their decision completely.
I think my guardians noticed my signs and kept getting me help.
I don't know where or who I'd be if I didn't get any help.
I'm lucky and for some reason others aren't.
The signs are there, you just need to look closer.
It's better to act now than later.
Because the consequences could be horribly bad.
And it'll all be too late.



ESSAY 7 | AMBASSADOR

ALEX KETCHUM

Early College Middle School

Imagine that you are that one kid at school who always gets picked on. The only thing on your mind is how you could get big and strong just to beat up those who have made fun of you. This thought seems unrealistic so you dismiss it while remembering that your dad has a gun at home full of ammunition. Now this thought seems like it could be reasonable so you decide to stick with it. You can't wait to get home. You're full of excitement and joy. Just the thought of getting revenge on your bullies gets you going. As soon as you get home you find the gun and hide it in your book bag. At school the next day, you wait impatiently for your moment to shoot. The clock is ticking and you go to the bathroom. You're sitting in a bathroom stall looking down at the gun. It has a shiny silver paint and enough power to kill. All you want is to be as powerful as that gun. You wish not to get picked on. And then you walk out of the bathroom.

Youth violence affects many people each day whether it be a kid, young adult, or even parents. These violences can be abuse (verbal, mental, sexual abuse or physical), drug use, alcohol consumption, or even gun violence. Some kids or even adults will make fun of those who have disabilities just because they are different and not quite "normal". Everyone deserves to be treated the same way which is why the black lives matter movement is in place, and why feminists are in the world now. It's an attempt at getting equal rights for everyone whether you're white, black, mixed, a female, a male, or non-bionary. These people want to stop the hate crimes and the slurs and the sexism. Now people use their words a lot online because they are too scared or too shy to actually say them to their victim's face. These words that they use are not kind words by any means. Eventually these words and actions will greatly affect the target and even the target's associates. This can go far enough to make the victim feel as though their only option is self harm, or suicide. Neither of these should ever have to be an option, but some people feel that it must come to that. There is always a way for people to feel down or sad. It could be from their own actions or someone else's. All of these may seem like they affect adults more than kids and teens, but I promise you that they do get affected just as much.

Another major problem of youth violence is gun violence and shootings. Some reasons that this can happen is the kid

or teen isn't in a safe home, they get mistreated at school, they could be sad and depressed or suicidal, and if we are being honest here then they could just be doing it for fun. According to Ucdavis Health, there were 39,707 deaths from firearms in 2019 and 60% of those were suicides. There are also about 115,000 non-fatal firearm injuries in the U.S. each year. This is just showing that gun violence is out of hand in the U.S. and it is a serious problem that needs everyone to step up and help make better laws for guns. It is also very important to be able to recognize the signs of a possible school shooting from a student. In the article "15-year-old boy charged with murder, terrorism in Michigan high school shooting" by npr.org, they talk about the school shooting that happened at Oxford Township in Michigan. In the article they say that the father bought the semi automatic handgun earlier that week and Crumbley got ahold of the gun which was apparently loaded. He walked into the bathroom with a book bag and came back out with his gun in his hands shooting. As the kids ran away, 4 were killed. The four students who were killed were 16-year-old Tate Myre, 14-year-old Hana St. Juliana, 17-year-old Madisyn Baldwin and 17-year-old Justin Shilling. He pleaded guilty but ended up losing the court case. The article says "the shooting should be a wake-up call for new gun laws in a country that has become "desensitized to school shootings," McDonald told reporters. "We have to do better," the prosecutor said without offering specific changes. "How many times does this have to happen? How many times?" This is very true and we really need to open our eyes and see just how bad of an issue this is. School shootings happen far too often now for it to just be brushed off our shoulders. We cannot keep letting this happen and we have to step up.

I know how much youth violence has affected other people, but it has really affected me too. My parents are really close and do not fight often but my dad and his brother were never really close. As kids they fought all the time and that led into adulthood. This one time my dad was feeding me (as a kid obviously), and my uncle punched him right in the face causing my dad to drop me. Now my dad usually would fight back, but it would not have been smart to try and fight my uncle because he was in the army and knew how to fight properly. I know this isn't a big incident that occurred



in my life, but my dad and uncle have been fighting and bickering since they were little, so every time they see each other it doesn't look pretty.

As you walk out of the bathroom, someone stops you and asks if you are ok. They've noticed that you would blank out during class and always get picked on. You finally for once feel wanted and safe so you throw out the plan to shoot the bullies. For the first time in a long time, you feel reassured that everything will be ok. Now that you were friends with someone, the bullies backed off. They still pick on you every once in a while, but things are smoothed over.

The results that can come from noticing the signs of a possible school shooting are mostly good. You can notice the signs and go talk to the person who is about to shoot and try to calm them and stop it, or you could let them do it. I believe in people and really hope that if someone sees the signs that they would go and stop it from happening. Try to tell a teacher or principal, or talk to them yourself. Either way it is helpful. Just don't let them do it.

<https://www.npr.org/2021/12/01/1060542851/a-4th-student-has-died-in-the-michigan-high-school-shooting?scrlybrkr=6d5bc7ef>

<https://health.ucdavis.edu/what-you-can-do/facts.html>



ESSAY 8

KAYSJUAN JACKSON

Crenshaw Middle School

Youth violence has affected my life because there have been many shots fired in my community. A lot of people I know have been shot and killed. For example, last year there was a shooting leading to two little babies being shot by stray bullets. One of the babies died. As a teenager, I have to wonder if I will go to sleep and wake up in the morning. It's scary and I think this violence should stop. In an article I read it says, "Experiencing youth violence can harm development and contribute to impaired decision making." This quote shows that youth violence harms the way kids think and behave. Kids that are young and experience youth violence are never gonna stop trying to be somebody they're not. Youth violence is a scary thing to go through at a young age. My overall opinion on youth violence is that it should stop. It is not fair to others in the community that have other young kids who are trying to do the right thing, because at any moment those kids could become victims of youth violence and that's why youth violence needs to be stopped.

I think the main cause of youth violence in my community is gang activity. Where I live everyone thinks they are a gangbanger and that it is a cool thing. So kids want to get into gangs and that's what I think leads to more youth violence. Youth violence/gangbanging affects kids all over our community.

Where I live people don't care about who you are in Canton. If you don't claim what they claim, you get shot or jumped, but this affects everyone in our community. One thing I learned from the video is that gangbanging involves your family and their safety. I think the violence in my community is scary and it's really not something to feel good about. I think the whole gang violence stuff needs to stop and they should also keep it to themselves and let people live in peace.

One way we can prevent youth violence in my community is if they could start having family friendly activities for everyone, more after school programs for kids and more mentoring. I also think a ban on a couple of social media sites that are starting violence toward African Americans would help so less problems can happen. I read an article that said, "To prevent youth violence we must understand and address the factors that put people at risk for or protect them from violence." This explains that we can prevent and protect kids in my community by doing more after school programs and also should mentor kids to do the right thing. My overall opinion on preventing youth violence is basically that we need to do more as a community. I like that idea of getting a better start in life and investing in new things that will help prevent youth violence in my community.



ESSAY 9

CHRISTOPHER MARTIN

STEAMM Academy at Hartford

Did you want to know how violence could affect your life in different ways? These body paragraphs will talk about how I felt about the violence and what I thought when violence is near or when I feel unsafe from either someone else or sometimes yourself. That's why it is important to talk about how you feel and how to help yourself. We will be talking about how violence has affected our lives and how we can help reduce youth violence.

What violence has done to affect me in life is it has shown me that sometimes what life throws at you is scary. But violence could teach you some things like how to protect yourself and how to get out of some predicaments that are bad. It is not always good to use violence, but when you feel like you're unsafe for someone or something or even yourself, you need to stop and think on how to make it better. Even statistics say that the consequences of how violence affects our life are an increase in incidences, depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder.

The causes of youth violence could lead to more than you expect when you do not listen in school. You know you're not only in trouble in school, you're also in trouble at home. When you're bad at school and at home, there could be much more consequences than just a punishment at home and school. If it is bad over

and over again then there are more punishments like juvie for people that are not good in school and I think you have problems that you may not actually have. Some things that could cause youth violence are like if you were ousted as a child you might think it is ok as an adult because you never had someone to guide you in the correct direction or you were influenced off of the media like you're trying to be cool but it is wrong.

There are more ways to help someone with youth violence then just have them talk about it to you. When you're in violence as a youth, it is better to try to get away from it to help your mental health and to bring it out of your life. You can have a better physical environment and a better social environment to help get it out. There are many other ways to help with youth violence like having someone else to teach you right so you're not in the wrong by doing that same thing that happened to you in your youth.

This is showing that youth violence is bad not only for yourself but for others too and this could bring bad habits to yourself and others. This is how you can handle youth violence and help reduce it in your community by telling stories that happen to you to help all. This has shown me that youth violence is not good and if habits start now they might carry till you're grown up and you might inflict it on someone else.



ESSAY 10

SUMER MCCLELLAND

Crenshaw Middle School

Youth violence has affected many children and adults. I think that youth violence needs to be stopped because it makes kids troubled and down. It also can cause emotional stress on kids, teenagers or parents. Sometimes even animals are affected, but we don't need to talk about animals. It can also cause you to have fear for yourself and others.

Youth violence has affected my community by kids getting bullied and fought with and shot by bad people because their parents, friends, or any other people did not do the right thing. Youth violence has also affected me because my cousin almost got shot because his neighbors did not do the right thing. Their house got shot up and my cousin was at home alone asleep in the armchair and if he was to move, that bullet would have gone straight to his head. This was all because his neighbors had violence and drama with other people. I have many more ways violence has affected me, but this one was the worst one because if that bullet had gone through his head, I would never see him again.

One cause of youth violence or any violence is gun violence. Gun violence is preventable. Access to guns can also cause youth violence by kids wanting to bring it to school and shoot the school up or shoot their bullies. Sometimes social media causes big violence and fights. Every 24 hours 15 youth are victims of homicides. When you see signs, depression is also preventable. These can be caused by youth violence — suicide. Why did they do it? Well because of youth violence and most of the time these kids don't deserve to take their own life. That's why youth violence has to come to a end. Social rejection can also cause this. Nearly around thousands of kids take their life because of youth violence.

Some things we can do to stop youth violence or any violence is say something. When you see red flags, report

it. You could also call a hotline to speak to one one about these red flags. Be a part of a solution. Parents and adults, for the love of GOD, lock up your guns. Please. It puts kids under the impression that they can use that gun for anything like taking their own life or any other person's life. Having good relationships with these troubled kids so they can trust somebody to speak to it might help them think about these decisions. Any of these and more can stop youth violence or at least prevent it, because it is really sad that kids are getting bullied because of their skin color, their weight, their smell, their looks, and how they speak. I used to get bullied for my speech impediment, but I learned how to speak and say letters better and I don't get bullied any more. These little things can help. You can also pay attention to rumors, not gossip rumors, but harmful rumors. Parents and adults, when you don't have a good relationship with your kids this can affect them at school, because when you send them to school, you won't know if they are getting bullied or not, so speaking to them builds a bond. It will really help them.

This was about youth violence as you can tell. You can prevent it, so help kids today and be a solution to problems. You can literally be a hero. My friend Elizabeth calls me her angel because I helped her. I got her more friends then just me. I saved her life because when she said, "Sumer, thank you so much. You are an angel," I wanted to cry, to cry. I saved a girl from taking her own life and now can't see her any more. I wonder how she's doing. How I saved her life changed my life. When you see red flags, call a hotline and report it. If you see something, say something.

Be Somebody's Hero Or Angel! Let's prevent another Sandy Hook!



ESSAY 11

ANDREW PARKER

Early College Middle School

How youth violence has affected me:

How youth violence has affected me.
Reasons, I can think of three
We are all affected by this disease
When I walk outside it's all I see
It's more than just a friendly tease

I'm locked in a Cage

Living life by the page
Someone gets shot down the street
I'm too young to die at such a age
The horror of being the next to beat

Someone pulls out a gun
I look around, nowhere to run
Are they crazy or, do they have a purpose
I can't take it anymore I'm done
Is it possible to break the circuit

Once you try the purple pill
It's only you who you're going to kill
It's not easy to stop an addict
Your mind is far past ill
The world is more than your attic

What causes youth violence:

Youth violence likes to spread
It doesn't stop until your dead
Affecting everyone around you
It is not just in your head
Your time to stop is past due

Mimicking the figures in your life
You wouldn't question if you saw blood on their knife
Violence is the only thing you've seen
Did it start when your dad left his wife
This ideology runs like a well oiled machine

Is it because your insecure
You hide it because your not sure
Inflicting wounds on the innocent
Hurting the ones who are pure
Turning them insolent

Violence doesn't stop with you
The cycle will continue
Moving on from one to the next
It's within societies sinew
I hope you haven't missed the x

How can I stop youth violence:

Spreading kindness one at a time
We will have to slowly climb
Once we reach the summit
We will get rid of the grime
All will be done with it

We all have to come together
To heal the ones under pressure
Kindness spreaders like violence
One act is beyond measure
We can't let another person go silent

Show them their is more to the world
Let their kindness be unfurled
Show them their is hope
Friendship must be hurled
To show their are more ways to cope

This is how we stop this disease
It cannot be done with ease
I believe this is the solution
Everyone should help, please
With this we can get a dilution



ESSAY 12

TRINITY SCHNEIDER

STEAMM Academy at Hartford

Everybody has something to accomplish in life, and everybody has something to live for.

I have to say violence hasn't affected me at all. The only thing I'm worrying about is the gunshots outside my neighborhood, and it makes me not want to go outside any more. I feel like there should be no reason for violence. Everybody has something to accomplish in life so, why the violence? Fighting, murdering, and causing destruction is what's considered to be fun to some people. Getting an education, being smart, wanting to stay home and be safe is considered bad, and boring. You're going to get called a loser if that's how you want to live your life. That isn't right. Well, that's me being a strong person. Instead of putting others down, we should bring each other up. Instead of balling up a fist, hold someone's hand. Instead of picking up a gun, pick up some books.

Research shows that youth violence can become a form of "street justice" in response to the lack of police protection in some neighborhoods. When this happens, teens may attempt to secure the neighborhood by using violence as a way of bringing order to the area. As a result, youth violence often manifests as gang violence, turf wars, gun wars, and other types of violence. Additionally, teens are more likely to be violent or aggressive when they feel pressured. They also may become violent in order to maintain their place in the group. Peer pressure can lead teens to engage in risk-taking behaviors. Dealing with traumatic events also can cause violent behavior in teens. For instance, teens who lose a friend in a car accident that they also were involved in often get angry at the fact that they were the ones that lived. Where teens live can also have an impact on them and lead them to act more

aggressively. The CDC points to several community risk factors for youth violence including diminished economic opportunities, high levels of crime, and socially disorganized neighborhoods. (Witmer, D. 2020)

I'm actually not sure what I can do. But I know for a fact that if I knew anyone going through this I would surely try to make them feel better and at least try to be their friend or be someone they can trust. Help younger children learn to avoid being crime victims. Set a good example and volunteer to help with community efforts to stop crime. Stick with friends who are also against violence and drugs, and stay away from known trouble spots. Get to know your neighbors and agree to look out for each other. Youth violence has serious effects on the physical, mental, and social health of youth including increasing risk for depression, and smoking. Violence against children is a significant cause of physical problems, psychological distress, permanent physical disability and long-term physical or mental ill-health.

In conclusion, the list of contributing factors to violent behavior in youths is never ending. One thing that society should remember though is that not just one single factor can be linked to youth violence. To prevent youth violence enlarge, not only does an individual do, but society also has some responsibility for it. For example, society should limit games and videos that have many violent scenes.

Works Cited

Witmer, D. (2020, June 9). What really causes youth violence? Verywell Family. Retrieved January 31, 2022, from <https://www.verywellfamily.com/causes-of-youth-violence-2611437>



ESSAY 13

TA'MIAH SHEELER

STEAMM Academy at Hartford

Have you ever experienced violence as a young child, or experienced someone else being verbally or physically abused? "Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud," someone once quoted and when I hear this I think I could help someone and make their life even a little better. Violence without reason is something someone would and should never have to experience. With that being said I'm going to write my essay about three things: how has violence affected my life, what are the cause of youth violence, and what could I do about youth violence.

How has violence affected my life? Well as of today, violence has not been a big part of my life personally, but I have heard and seen several children get verbally or physically abused in public as well. Even if it's for a simple stroll to the park or a trip to the store, there is always at least one child is getting in trouble. It even happens here at school when another student is picking on one just because they look different or don't have the best clothes. This type of behavior makes me very uncomfortable and even a little angry because some people can't help their situation. I think a major way that violence has affected my life is mentally. I say this to say that when I go out and see this, it affects my brain and it makes me not feel safe in that area. On to our next topic.

The next topic is what are causes of youth violence? Some of the most common causes of youth violence that I have heard of is reason one, someone isn't as materialistic as the "popular" group so that causes verbal and sometimes

physical abuse to another child. Another cause is when an adult who wasn't ready for a child or if they are really horrible just adopt children for money, then the anger and rage in this adult can cause them to take it out on the child physically or verbally, and in most cases, both. And another thing that may cause youth violence is when a child's behavior is not good and a parent with a bad temper or even a child with really bad behavior can cause one to "lash" out and use violence against them.

The final topic is what can I do about youth violence? Now as you probably know, I am a child or minor. Due to that there is not much I can do about parent to child violence, but I could call child services to have them investigate further into the situation and get the child help if necessary. Or if I'm with a responsible adult then I could have them maybe address the situation. I can say also as a child, I have the power to stop child to child violence whether it is verbal or physical. I have the power to speak up. Another thing I could do is report any signs of violence to prevent things from getting worse to a responsible trusted adult.

In conclusion, youth violence should not be encouraged or even around. I can't do much to stop it but I can definitely make a difference or at least try to make a impact. Some people just shouldn't lose their temper every time a child makes a mistake. And violence can definitely affect someone else's life. Next time you see something happen, will you step up?



ESSAY 14

KOLE SHEPLER

STEAMM Academy at Hartford

Over 75% of the population has experienced some kind of assault. Violence has caused many youths to be murdered. Violence can cause students to become emotionally less than they were before, such as mental pain. Violence can cause others to provide violence to others. Violence has also driven some young people to suicide. We can prevent this horrible state by helping others in the state of being bullied, trying to spread kindness, and trying to help those spreading violence to see that what they are doing is wrong.

First If we help those who are in a state of being bullied, it can prevent them from spreading violence towards others. Ways we can help those who are being bullied are intervening during fights. Another way we can help is if we get them mental help. Then we could intervene when rumors are going around. An example of this is: imagine a boy being bullied at school, you decide to show him kindness and help him to ignore it.

Then if we help those who are spreading the violence, to see that it is horrible, then we could prevent them from spreading violence. Ways this could help are if we show them that it is wrong, they might stop. Another way this could work is if we show them to seek help. If they seek help, others could encourage them to stop. A final way this could help is if we ask them why they are doing this. An example of this would be: you witness a person harassing another, you decide to intervene and choose to help them to see that what they are doing is wrong. Another example of this

would be: you witness a person harassing another, you decide to have them seek help from others, others show them their experience, and they decide to stop.

Finally this could help if we encourage kindness in other places. If we show those spreading violence that it is wrong, we could encourage them enough to stop spreading the violence. A way this could help is if we could encourage others with kindness, it could cause them to help others. Another way is if we show them how wrong it is doing this, it could remind them of how bad it was for them. Then if we show them how wrong it is they could influence others to quit spreading violence, and instead spread positivity. An example of this is if we show a bully how wrong their actions are. By doing this, they know how horrible they have acted and decide to help others.

More than 75% of the population has experienced some form of violence. Violence has led many youths to suicide. Violence has as well caused students to become emotionally less than they were before, including mental violence. Violence has and can cause others to spread the violence. Violence has caused homicide to many, including those they love. Violence is a horrible thing and can be prevented by helping those who are being bullied, helping those spreading the violence realize that it is wrong, and trying to spread kindness instead. In my opinion, violence is a horrible thing and has caused many lives to be lost.



ESSAY 15

NIEJAH SHIPMAN

Crenshaw Middle School

Violence, the unlawful exercise of physical force or intimidation by the exhibition of such force or at least that's what google says, but I think it goes deeper than that. I think people who are violent or have taken part in some sort of violence are sometimes misunderstood. I'm not saying they're not accountable for their actions or what they did isn't wrong, I'm just saying sometimes people have that breaking point. Some people do it out of hurt or even feel like they have to. Some people do it to get what they want, some even do it to survive in this place we call a home. I've personally seen a lot and dealt with some violence over the summer and at school. What's scary is to know that we live in a world where we have to be skeptical or scared to walk outside. Our world has it to where we don't wanna go outside to enjoy life because we're scared that we may never come back whether it be because of the color of our skin, our gender, or even because someone may not like us.

When speaking of violence, one major thing that I think causes violence is racism. A lot of African American people have to deal with it. The scariest thing is to know that there are people out there that would want to harm you because of the color of your skin, something that you can't control. Black people already have to go through life being stereotyped. They have to go through a lot of different struggles due to their skin color. Today we now have to look over our shoulder wondering if we're safe or not while just taking a walk. We can't walk out of our house without someone giving us the side eye or talking bad about our race, even accusing us of something just because we're black. They wanna put our lives at risk as if it isn't bad enough that the police are taking our lives as well as we're taking our own lives. Some older black people are still mad at white people from the way they treated our ancestors. I get it, but it doesn't make it better. I haven't encountered anyone who has been racist towards

me and that I'm grateful for, but it's still hurt to know there's people out there who would rather bring our black society down then to help build us up.

Another problem I think is causing violence is gender discrimination, especially toward transgender people. People are so caught up in their own lives they don't see how hurt others can be. One thing I think people really don't pay attention to is the way females and LGBTQ community feels. Being a female isn't as easy as it may look. Men feel as though they can abuse and harm us because we're "not as strong" as them. I have no experience with what the LGBTQ community goes through personally, but I can say that they do go through a lot more of violence than most. People feel that because they are transgender that they are weak or not as strong minded and that goes for females. The female society and LGBTQ community are always worried because they know what people are capable of and how they can take things too far. They know that people put them as a target because they feel that they won't fight back, because they believe they have no one in their corner to help them fight. They have rights just like any other American.

You may ask how all this violence affects my life even though I haven't gone through some of it. It affects me because as an African American female I'm always looking over my shoulder because I'm afraid that someone will harm me because of the color of my skin, or how I act, or just being a female. Violence affects me because sometimes I'm scared to walk alone and I know I'm an easy target being a girl. People feel I'm not strong enough to beat them but they should try me. I worry even more about my brothers, male cousins and male friends because they're African American men who some in society stereotype as violent and may hurt them if they feel threatened by them, family, friends.



ESSAY 16 | AMBASSADOR

DA'MARIYAH SKILLERN

Crenshaw Middle School

Violence surrounds us everywhere we are, on television, on YouTube, even in some people's homes. Violence is becoming more common due to the fact that people are now making a profit off of being violent or rude as a "prank" and uploading to streaming platforms or social media platforms. Most of the music children and teens listen to now are about guns, drugs, gangs and just all around violence, and now people think they could just do violent things and get away with it because their favorite rapper did it. If you watch a movie more than likely at least two scenes will have some sort of violence, because it has almost become normalized.

I think violence is caused by mentally challenged people who can't control themselves and resort to hurting people, or hurting themselves to make them feel better. People making jokes about violence are also causing it to become out of hand. Dysfunctional homes and families are also a small cause of violence due to the fact that some people who come from those kinds of situations become stressed, depressed, and angry so they turn to violence as an outlet. Violence is also caused by people who don't know how to control their anger or emotions, and resort to violence.

Violence has affected me in many ways. Violence has affected me by taking away one of my family members. Violence has also affected me by targeting people that I know, love, and care about. It has affected me by consuming the minds of some of my fellow classmates and people that I know. Violence has also affected me by affecting my community. Violence has affected my community by taking away innocent people's lives. It has also affected the community by destroying peoples' mental health and mental state.

I can prevent violence by taking it seriously and not joking about it. I could also be a leader and not follow everyone who is participating in violent behavior or joking about



violent behavior. I could also prevent violence by being nicer to people or being more understanding of people and the way they act, because I never know what they're going through and something I say or have said to them might make them act out. And lastly, I could prevent violence by knowing the line between right and wrong and not crossing it.

Violence has become more and more common because people see it on television and think it is okay or hear about how someone killed somebody and got away with it. Students think that since they see it on a day to day basis or they do some of this stuff at home that it is okay to bring it to school. And people who grew up in the "projects" or grew up with less automatically assume that the only life paths they have are dropping out of school, joining gangs, selling drugs, murdering, robbing, kidnapping, scamming, or even just doing drugs and not making anything out of their life.



ESSAY 17

MARK SPRINGER

STEAMM Academy at Hartford

I am going to tell you about youth violence. There are a lot of little kids who get picked on by older people because they can't defend themselves. And that's not right. They should not be getting picked on by older people and it's just not right. These little kids are trying to do things to themselves that they should not be doing at all. We just need to stop the older kids from picking on the younger kids because no matter how mad they make us, we have to just keep calm and move on about our day.

First, I was in one of those situations where I was getting bullied by this one kid. I was five and he was ten. He thought it would be fun to pick on me so I just told the teacher at the school and my mom and dad. Well the school wasn't doing anything so my dad got me into boxing and some years went by and he tried to pick on me again and my older friends that were about his age were there and they stuck up for me. And then I really never saw him outside after that, but every time I see something like this happening I try to stop it because it's just not right for these older kids to be picking on these younger kids like that.

Second, I have a lot of younger kids as friends because I know how good it feels to play with older kids, but I live right by a school. One of my younger friends goes there and they tell me all the time that there are older kids bullying them and I told them to tell the teachers and if they don't do anything, tell your mom and dad. And so they do, but that still don't mean that the kid will stop because he just might not care about what the teacher says like most kids. It's mostly their mom and dad that don't do anything and that's why they don't care what you say and then you wonder why this world is so bad because the kid's mom and dad don't care. The ones that their mom and dad care about will be the change that this world needs and will make it better.

Lastly, schools have to change because they do nothing about a kid getting bullied. They just say something to the kid that is bullying the other ones and that doesn't

change nothing. If they were to make them sit down and have them say sorry or put them in punishment, I think that will change more than they just saying something to the kid because it's just going to get worse. Nothing is going to change. The older kid is not going to like how the younger kid told on him, but he will end up learning one way or the other and just saying something is not going to stop him from doing it because he is not going to care. If you give him a punishment, he will stop doing it. If he gets in trouble a lot for the same thing, he/she will learn about what he is doing wrong. Youth violence is something people should care about. Those that are getting bullied are not ok so the kids are getting upset and when they get older, they are going to do the same. I see some kids that are like the good kids and they will start bullying the new little kids in schools. There have been kids who got bullied when they were younger and now they are mostly not so nice people. They are people that you don't want to be friends with. They are not cool people. They are people that will get you in trouble all day. I just saw this video about face to face friends and that's the people you want to stay away from. Those people are going to end up in jail or in something that they don't want to be in and you don't want to be in that situation either. You have to make good friends with the right people.

So what I am trying to say here is that we have to try to stop youth violence. Because if we want this world to be great or become something, we have to stop talking about and stop bullying people to their face or behind their back. It's not right. If you have a problem with someone, then you go talk to someone that will have you two people in a room and have you guys talk it out. We can't have these young kids hurting themselves just because someone doesn't like what they look like that day or just doesn't like them and takes their anger out on them. It's not right. And the moms and dads that don't care about anything need to start caring because they are just going to be the reason they get the phone call they don't want to hear.



ESSAY 18

MAILEAH TAYLOR

STEAMM Academy at Hartford

Many children, approximately twelve every day, experience some form of youth violence against them. Physical assault and homicides cost nearly 18.2 billion dollars every year, and about 1,400 children are treated for them daily. Some children are even killed by physical assault and attack. Children should be able to be protected against youth violence in schools or in the streets. We need to figure out how to prevent kids from youth violence anywhere in the world. What are some of the causes of youth violence, what are some things that can be done about youth violence, and lastly how has youth violence affected me and my life?

First, some of the causes for youth violence. Youth can experience violence and physical assault for many reasons. Data shows that many races and ethnicities have a higher rate and possibility of experiencing youth violence. African American, Asian Hispanic, American Indian, and Alaskan Native youth have a heightened rate of youth violence. Homicides are also the leading cause of death among African American youth. In 2016, it was also shown that males in school have a 1.7 higher rate of physical fights than females. Although, females in school were reported to be more likely to be targets of bullying in the classrooms. In addition, youth that identify as LGBTQ, (gay lesbian bisexual, transgender or questioning their identity) also have a raised risk and rate of violence.

Secondly, how has youth violence affected my life? For most of my school life, I have been a victim of bullying and cases of physical assault. How I believe it affected me

was making me feel sadder and angrier all the time, as well as making me a much more aggressive person sometimes. It also made me keep to myself more and not have many friends. This has in addition made me not like going to school and has drained my energy in class as the day goes on. I am not the only one who has been affected by youth violence. I have seen friends who go through some of the same things I do.

Lastly, what are some things that can be done about youth violence? There are many things people can do to help prevent youth violence from happening. The CDC lists ways to prevent it, such as promoting healthy home and family environments, strengthening youth's skills, and getting youth connected with trustworthy, caring adults, as well as keeping protective communities and offering treatment for youth violence victims. These things can keep communities safer and help stop youth violence from occurring.

In conclusion, many children and youth have experienced youth violence, whether it be at school or out in the streets. I also talked about what were some of the causes of youth violence, what things can be done about youth violence, and how it has affected my life. We should be keeping school and home environments safe for kids all around the world. Do you think that youth violence is a problem that we should be working on to prevent?

External sources: Prevention Strategies | Youth Violence | Violence Prevention | Injury Center | CDC



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