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Do The Write Thing Essay, 2014

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What is Violence

The dictionary says that violence is the use of physical force to harm someone. That is true, but violence isn't as simple as hurting someone with your fist. Violence is bullying, beating someone up, or using words to hurt someone; those are all common forms of violence.

When I heard the topic of this essay would be youth violence I thought and thought and thought about how I have been affected by violence. Suddenly I remembered one day in early winter I was playing ball in the house and heard a bang. I ran to the window to see what was happening and I saw two teens running away from another teen. That's when the second shot went off, then a third. I immediately called my mom over and she called the cops. I had witnessed the whole thing. I was terrified and had no idea how to process what had just happened right in front of my house. I know many kids have been affected by gang violence on their streets. I also know that most kids who have observed such a terrifying experience don't like seeing it. I hated it. When I saw that I wasn't the same, but I never talked about it. I kept all the scared, surprised and sympathetic feelings tucked inside and felt extremely sad for the kids that got themselves into that messy situation. The next day I wondered was it safe to go outside. I asked my mother if it was safe to go outside. I was very, very frightened because of that situation.

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Kids don't think we make irrational decisions. Such as being in gangs or touching your father's gun. For example the kid who shot his brother with his cousin's gun. Wow. That poor innocent boy killed because of his brother's irrational decision. It's so sad that kids even have to even worry about getting shot while walking on the street or getting kidnapped while walking home from school. You say we're your future. Well you say that while spending money on the war in Iraq then using that money to fund extracurricular activities or after school programs to help kids with their homework.

When living in a bad home environment kids act what they see. Some kids that live in neighborhoods with violence, drugs, or frightening learn to expect those things. Another thing that causes youth violence is many kids want to act like what they see in the cinema or in video games such as call of duty. Kids also want do what they hear rappers saying. Kids hear it and think it's okay to do things like shooting something or kicking or punching someone.

Even though there are many causes of youth violence I want to be part of the solution. Here are some ways I can help stop youth violence. One thing I can do is promote positive rap. Since raps songs lyrics get stuck in peoples heads. I think positive rap songs and rappers should have an influence on other kids. Rappers such as krs1 have good lyrics and I think by telling my friends I can make some of them enjoy positive rap and have positive messages in their heads instead of negative rap lyrics. Another thing is try to get kids in my school in extracurricular activities instead of being on the street where it's easier to get into trouble. Youth violence is the cause of many kids. It's time for change so get out of your seats and do something. Be part of the solution and help end youth violence.