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Do the Write Thing, Boston

Breaking the Cycle of Violence

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### Do The Write Thing Essay, 2014

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Cheyenne D. Harris

Martin Luther King Jr. K-8 school

Do The Write Thing- Spoken word/ Essay

They pulled out that rugar on you, pearl handle gentle grip, headshot hallow tip

We all seen it coming but it was just too quick

Your boys said they was riding but they was the first to dip

All it took was one bullet to the head; you stood there paralyzed then dropped to the ground in shock

We shaking you like "ayo Tae get up, we gotta be out. Tae, just get up!"

Blood flowing from your head to your feet. I knew it, you were dying but I just couldn't and didn't want to and couldn't believe

You opened your eyes slight, voice faint you said

"Face it, I'm not gonna make it. I'm covered in all this paint. My body is getting too weak. It's my time.

Please, remember me. Anything you do shout me out. Say "this is for Tae and all the other guys may god rest their souls." I don't wanna see no tears or hear any cries just do me a favor, stay off these streets.

You're too young. I don't want you to end up like me. With my final breaths I just wanna say, I love you all dearly and never forget this day. This is the day ya'll should celebrate, my sins are gone I'm happy I'm finally free and I'm in a better place. When your time look for my face when you arrive at the gate. This is no goodbye because they say goodbye is forever and I'll see you again. So dry your face, I love you and I'll see you later."

Violence has affected my life because I lost so many friends and family members whether their life was taken to the streets or they're the criminal behind bars. This affected me because it's not the same, even though I have other family members nobody will be able o replace the ones that I lost due to gang

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violence or street violence. I know a lot of kids my age that lost their lives to the streets or wasted their life trying to be cool and fit in. It's sad waking up and hearing that a teen just got murdered over something that wasn't even that serious. There are many causes of youth violence. One, the main one is kids being in the streets. Teens are usually forced by their peers to join a gang, some want to seem cool. Youth violence also starts over arguments, sometimes they might be arguing about money or something else that was borrowed and not returned. It won't even be that serious. Another cause of youth violence is how they are at home. They probably feel that nobody listens so they have to prove themselves. They're probably just sitting around at home all day not doing anything so they use their spare to time getting into trouble on the streets. We as a world can help stop youth violence, together. We can protest to get certain things off the streets. Also to help the youth we can make programs to help get kids off the streets, find out what they're good at and motivate them to make something out of themselves with that talent that have. It is possible to stop youth violence and us as a world and community can do it together.