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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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## Doing the Write Thing

This essay is about doing the "write" thing. Let's start off with the first question: how has violence affected your life? Violence has affected my life in a lot of ways. It's in cartoons, video games, movies, etc. In cartoons and movies, it's usually something like the hero and villain get in a fight. The hero defeats the villain, etc. You all know the story. But other types of movies, although still having violence, is more vicious. There's more fighting, more pain, oh the misery. Violence is also in video games. In history class, my teacher, Mr. Gallagher, talked about people being desensitized. That means people get less sensitive. In history, we are currently learning about the Romans. Mr. Gallagher was talking about how the Romans adopted very violent games from the Etruscans. One was slave fighting, and the other was chariot races. Slave fighting is when two slaves of a dead master fight to the death. After one kills the other, the winner is congratulated, and then executed. Chariot racing is when drivers are strapped to their chariots. If a chariot overturned, it was very likely that the driver could get dragged under the chariot's wheels, or trampled by horses. This often resulted in injury, or death. Now, let's get to the video games. There's a video game called Grand Theft Auto, and as the name mentions, there is a lot of violence. In the game, people go around stealing things from other people. Other people get seriously hurt, maybe run over, something like that. Violence has also affected my life because of bullying. We have had a lot of bullying programs at my school. There's one on Thursday that's called Boston Vs. Bullies, and on Friday there's one that's called The G.R.E.A.T. Program. G.R.E.A.T. is an acronym, and it stands for Gang Resistance Education And Training. These programs are meant to teach us about bullying, for example, why kids bully, or what you can do to stop it. Boston Vs. Bullies stars a lot of athletes who have supported the cause to stop bullying. Boston Vs. Bullies not only teaches us the importance of bullying, it's also really fun. We do a lot of acting, etc. The G.R.E.A.T Program is a little different. We have Officer Donut come over. Officer Donut is a police man who tells us all about bullying. We even have a sign. Donuts For Life. Donuts is a circle, For is four fingers, and Life is the letter L. Also, if you act out during class, Officer Donut makes you do push ups.

Now, let's address the second question: what are the causes of youth violence? One example would be poverty. You know, when someone is poor, and they can't afford things other people have. This may cause the person who is poor to start stealing things from other people, and they start to get into fights. Or, maybe, other people pick on the poor person. Next, we have depression. Depression is that feeling you get when you're really sad. Maybe someone in your life passed away. This gives other people the chance to pick on you because you're weak, defenseless, etc. Moving on, we have people not feeling good about themselves, being insecure. They pick on other people to feel better about themselves. Or, other people can pick on them. Remember, it works either way. One day, you're a bully, the next, you're a victim. Also, people bully for power, to be the alpha dog, they're in charge. That's one of the things people look for: power. People could bully you to establish dominance, to show that they have the power. Or, you pick on other people. People are usually picking on others who are less powerful than them. Maybe they have a disability, or they're smaller, less stronger, for whatever the reason. Which brings me up to my next point: people bully because they think they're better than everyone else. Maybe, they're richer than everyone else, or something. This is not cool, everyone is equal, no one is better than someone else. Seriously, look in the Declaration of Independence, or something. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal..."

Let's look at the last question: what can I do about youth violence? There are plenty of things. One is to get involved in sports. This gives you the opportunity to do something, so you can ignore other people if they're bullying you. You can also tell the bully to stop. Be confident, stand up for other people. Bullying is not cool, and everyone should know that. However, if you're not confident, I recommend not trying that. Also, you can offer the victim a choice. Stay there, or come with you. You're not doing anything to the bully, you're not making them mad, or anything. Also, there's another way. Compliment the bully. "Hey, man, you're already stronger, and taller, than this kid. Why you got to pick on him?" You're complimenting the bully, and you're not doing anything to provoke them. Maybe, the bully is on sports team, or has something planned the following day. They don't want to get in trouble, do they?