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Do The Right Thing Challenge

By [REDACTED]

I just don't get it. Why do young people always want to start a fight over nothing at times? It's probably because they think they get more respect from people when they show that they can fight. If that's the case, they're wrong for wanting to be violent. At the end of the day, people don't respect you for being violent; they're *afraid* of you. That's probably what they want; for people to be afraid of you, but that's not always the best thing to do.

For the first 10 years of my life, I lived in a bad neighborhood. I always stayed inside as much as I can because of the bad environment. Month after month, there would always be a report on the news about a person under 20 being killed due to violence in the area. Sometimes I wondered if the people who were violent in the area were doing what they did on purpose just to scare people or make them afraid. It still baffles me that people want to be violent. Living in that neighborhood has affected me on a personal level because every time I left my house, I always had that *feeling* that something might happen to me. It was that strong feeling of paranoia that gave me the chills; like someone was just *watching* me and they were waiting to strike any minute.

A lot of things can cause a kid to be violent. Wanting to be tough is one cause of youth violence. Sometimes a simple comment can seriously tick someone off and eventually start a fight. Another cause of youth violence is living in a violent household. Your parents might be abusive to you and when you leave your house, you just have some sick feeling that you want to hurt someone else so they could know how you feel. Play fighting is also another cause of youth violence. Those kind of things doesn't make it automatically okay to get aggressive.

It really doesn't take a lot to reduce the amount of youth violence in America. Parents can encourage their kids to do better things than fighting like play sports or get involved in the community. I would also encourage young teenagers to join clubs at school or do something nice for someone. If I was older, I would make an organization that strives toward stopping youth violence.

There's no absolute way of abolishing youth violence because that's one thing you can't stop anytime soon. If everyone does their part in stop being violent, the world **will** be less violent.

