

1-1-2015

# Do the Write Thing Essay, 2015

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## Recommended Citation

"Do the Write Thing Essay, 2015" (2015). *Do the Write Thing, Boston*. Paper 419.  
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# Let's Stop the Violence

Violence is everywhere people get hurt and killed mentally and physically every day. I believe the cause of youth violence stems from the fact that people are too immature and are influenced by their friends. There are more gangs in the world than programs to help kids express their feelings and emotions. I believe these programs would help kids speak out and express themselves and not take out their frustrations and emotions on everyone else around them. The sad part is they won't go to the programs because they don't want to seem weak. Young people act out because they are missing something in their lives. They've been hurt and they are holding in anger. They don't want to cry because they think they will be called a punk. So they make wrong decisions and hurt everyone like they have been hurt before. There are too many people instigating situations, causing more conflict and commotion than there needs to be. People want to put their opinion in and make up lies to make them look big *a slang term for tough*. This causes the situation to get bigger and out of control than it needs to be. They want to see a fight so they can post it on social media for their enjoyment and likes. People bully others based on their size, style, appearances, and their race they are getting abused and don't want to go to school and they want to kill themselves they are scarred and nobody knows how they feel. They are scared and develop trust issues. I think everyone should just treat everybody the way they want to be treated and make everyone feel wanted and respected. People also get abused at home and they can't take it out on the parent so they take it out on everyone else.

Youth violence really can't be stopped. They will agree and say every youth that's part of violence will stop selling weed for example but at the end of the day

they are just going to be influenced by their friends and go back to selling weed. There is too much peer pressure on our, my young people. They try to fit in the best way they can no matter the situation. We need more programs that will let young people let out everything and not feel like they're going to be judge on what they are saying. Adults should listen more to the youth instead of always judging the young person because it can cause youth to be discourage leading them to lashing out, positive action leads to positive reaction. They need encouragement from people and their love ones. They just need to go to church and find JESUS to get the comfort and get the encouragement they are longing for and need.

I have experience a lot of violence in my life when my cousin got shot in her foot at nine months, my uncle was carrying my cousin out of the car taking her home. A guy jumped out the bushes and started shooting and a bullet went through my cousin's foot and into my uncle's groin. They had to be rushed to the hospital. From that day I always thought someone was going to be looking for me and hurt me because they knew my uncle. It even made it hard for my cousin to learn how to walk because she was just learning to stand on her own. It was like she was starting all over again. It made learning how to walk a longer process than normal 9 month old baby.

My mother told me a story about when I was younger and how her and my aunt took me and my cousin to McDonalds. They complimented the cashier on his hair and he got smart and had an attitude. He thought my mom was hitting on him. My aunt and my mom said "no need to have an attitude and to be rude". So he spit in my hamburger. My mom called my uncles and they came to McDonalds. The guy went to sit at the table because he was on break and my uncle took the guy's headphones out and slapped him across his face with a cd player saying "you're going to make my niece a new burger" and the guy got up like he was going to do something and my two cousins punch the guy and knocked him down. The guy ran

to his house and they followed him. The guy went to go get his dad and my other uncle got out the car with a gun. The dad slammed the door on his son and his son ran. I never got my burger. I witness violence at a young age because someone wanted to get to big *to act tough*. All I wanted was a burger. People can be immature causing things to be blown out of proportion. My family could have handle it differently without using violence.

A friend of used to cut herself and tried to commit suicide herself because people bullied her and her parents talked down to her. She never felt special and wanted. Her dad raped her when she was younger it took a toll on her mentally. She always felt like trash. Her parents would say "you're not going to be anything, you're a failure, and we don't even know why we had you. You were a mistake." Her mom used to beat her, taking her anger out on her because her dad was beating her mother. Her dad made her sit and watch him beat her mother. He would say "your next and this is what your husband is going to do to you because you are worthless just like your mother." She also got bullied at school because of how she dressed and her size. People would call her names and throw things at her. Now she believes all the things that she had been told is true. She now believes that she is nothing she's never going to be anything. She just need words of encouragement. I try my best as her friend to show her what love is because every positive action give a positive reaction and that she can be anything she wants to be and that she is special in every way. Unfortunately she's still scarred physically and mentally. I can only pray for her.

This paper tells my opinion and a part of my life. These stories are showing me you always have to watch who you hang out with and violence can happen even in your own family, in your own home. Just remember you don't have to be violent to fit in with the crowd. Its ok to be different. If you're getting abused at home speak up don't hold it in. If you're getting bullied at school speak up because

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you can encourage more people to speak up and others will know it's not just you  
it's a whole lot of other and they need help.