When I was younger, I always asked myself, "Why is violence so evident in our society?" As I got older and experienced some of the violence first-hand, I came to a realization. We play games about murder, famine and other forms of violence. We watch movies where the protagonist is an assassin and the music we listen to have lyrics that speak of violence. It took fifteen years, but now I see why violence has been apart of our daily lives. Adolescent kids are impressionable, and when their favorite artist, game, or character glorifies violence, they will also. These kids go out mimic this behavior making violence spread like a plague, infecting every corner of our society, blinding us form the truth: violence needs to be stopped.

"When are you going to join the military?" My family has asked me that question everyday since I turned twelve. Violence has become such as strong force in my family that it has now become a career. Even as a child I had to deal with violence. I used to live in Colombia, South Carolina, in a highly rural area. Everyday there I was jumped for being form the city until I ultimately defended myself. My mother had to defend herself from a hoard of women, leaving a sense of uneasy stillness in the atmosphere. I’ve become so paranoid that I rarely make eye contact with strangers, fearing that they are irrational and would want to arouse a conflict. I’ve been exposed to violence so much now that verbal violence doesn’t affect me, but that’s what I fear the most. I fear that I will be so accustomed to death, gangs, shootings and other violent things that it will be normal for me.
When I was in foster care, I went to many group homes. There was almost no one watching us kids. Honestly, we had our own little society. The older kids were in charge and the little kids were supposed to listen to them. We did at first, but then we started fighting about food, toys, and other miscellaneous things. This happened so often that us little kids, stopped listening to the older kids. This experience showed me what causes violence in our society. The little kids in the group home represented the community, while the older kids were, metaphorically, the anti-violence foundations. They keep telling us, as a society, what to do to stop violence, but the majority of us never listen. Another problem that causes violence are social networking sites. Websites such as Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter, has aided in chronic gossip. This gossiping has caused major conflicts, and since most of the people on the site are people who know you, conflict is aroused close to home.

There are numerous ways to stop violence, and I intend to decipher them. Of course, it will be a tedious task on our part, but we need to come together as a community to solve this problem. One way to stop violence is to personally reach out to the youth of the community, instead of throwing a community center in their face. These give the youth a personal connection and a sense of understanding and a feeling of, “I’m not alone.” Another way to stop violence is to create positive role models in the media. As I said before, children are impressionable, if they see their favorite super hero stopping conflicts with words, they most likely would do the same. Most of the children who engage in violence think they have no way out. It’s our job as a community to show them other options and open up new doors for them.
In conclusion, violence needs to stop because it consumes everything. Even in infancy, we are faced with the threat of violence. It has no limits and it knows no bounds. It is a tornado, siphoning in every single soul it can. Violence is learned as a child and carried with you all the way to adulthood. There are ways to stop it, some are clear and some aren’t. But can we really sit down every day and let this villain take over? You wouldn’t let someone hurt your child, but violence doesn’t care about your intentions for your child’s safety. It only cares about feeding on our minds and bodies until we are stripped from the very foundation that we call life. We need to stop violence, but can it be stopped? Only time will tell...