I was standing in the window in the front room of my grandmother’s house, watching my sister play outside next door. All of a sudden a white car pulled up and a hand came out. Bullets started shooting. Thankfully my sister and her friends were safe but questions shot through my head just like the bullets I had just seen. What if my sister and her friends had gotten hurt? Did anyone get hurt? But the biggest question of all was if this is how he handled his anger how are younger people watching going to handle theirs?

In music and on television there is a tremendous amount of negative influence and violence. My mom always tells me that if you listen or look at something a lot, when hard times come that is what you are going to resort to when hard times come. I think that this is one cause of youth violence. Bullying is also a cause. In music, (this is what lots of youths go to for coping methods) people often put down people that are less fortunate or different from them. So when some youth see different or less fortunate
their first thought is to put them down. I was bullied all through elementary school, and even tried harming myself because of bullying. So I know how it feels to be bullied, and try my hardest not to do the same to others.

All people do not handle bullying the same way I do, some people retaliate. This is another cause of violence. Many victims of bullying retaliate with words, or retaliate physically. Booker T. Washington once said “It often requires more courage to suffer in silence then to rebel, more courage not to strike back than to retaliate, more courage to be silent than to speak.” I agree with this. You do not have to be completely silent. But to not respond with fist shows great strength and power. The first thing that youth thinks to do is to strike back because that’s what we see in society. But the strong youth are the people who know how to talk things out. And one thing that will help to stop violence is seeing are elders responding to conflicts less violently, so one day we could follow in their footsteps. This is my take on youth violence.