Youth Violence

"Ohh my gosh, did you just hear that, those were gunshots". You hear people saying this a lot where I live. People saying this is caused by violence, especially youth violence. In the following paragraphs I will explain to you what youth violence is and the causes of it.

Youth violence is a horrible thing that has affected my family and I in a negative way. There have been many incidents where one of my family members has been hurt because of youth violence.

On July 14th it was my cousins birthday and we had a cookout, the party started at 7:00 p.m and ended at 3:00 a.m (in the morning). Maybe staying out so late wasn’t such a good idea because around 9:00 p.m it started getting dark. At that time we weren’t worrying about anything, everyone was dancing and having a good time. Around 10:30 p.m, I felt the mood change. I felt as if I was in a movie and everything was in slow motion. I noticed a green car go by with tinted windows. The driver rolled down his window and started shooting. Suddenly reality hit me. Everyone started running into the house. I was so scared. I thought I was going to die that day. Once my mom, sister and I got upstairs, we realized that my little cousin Alex was missing. Alex’s mother ran down the stairs as fast as she could. She found Alex; he was in the hallway making his way up. Everything wasn’t okay just yet, my cousin was freaking out. He was so mad because it was his birthday and these stupid people disrespected him and his family. My cousin was flipping out, and
he almost fought the cops. My cousin ended up going to jail that night. We also found out that my other cousin's car had been destroyed. The windshield was shattered with a bullet hole through it. That night was crazy.

When people see me they think I'm so sweet, and good, but in reality, I have many stories to tell. This incident was caused by youth violence. Causes such as gangs, drugs, Alcohol and fighting. The guys who drove by thought that my cousin was a kid part of a gang that was on their "territory". This situation has affected my family and I in a negative way. After this, I was always paranoid and on the lookout. For a while I did not feel safe in my own neighborhood.

Being a youth and growing up in this type of environment is difficult. It is important for youth violence to end because nobody wants to live in fear. I would like to feel safe in my own environment, and I would like for that to change not only for me, but for everyone.