How has violence affected my life?

Violence has affected my life. When I first heard this question I was thinking “violence hasn’t affected my life in a meaningful way.” But after I thought long and hard I came up with what I think is a reasonable answer, compare this generation to older generations. We suffer because of increased crime and violence against kids. Violence has affected the way we live, play and go about our daily lives, which is why technology has become part of our daily life. Teens in the generation before us could play outside all day as long as they made it home before the street lights came on. But this generation can’t enjoy that kind of freedom because of violence. We don’t play outside the way our parents did. We don’t hang out at the malls, movies, and parks the way our parents did. We have learned to entertain ourselves at home and communicate through the new forms of media. Increased violence has forever changed the way we live. Big or small, violence affects us all. Violence has also affected my life by making me conscientious of everything I do. It also makes me fear when I’m alone. The shows I watch like Criminal Minds make me fear, to see how brutally people are murdered. Watching those shows make me also fear that that the shows can become real life... my life. Also children have no respect for one another, if they had respect they wouldn’t act the way they do. Imitating what they see, and living in the same environment that “situations” are handled.

What are the causes youth violence?

The causes of youth violence are: The Media, Substance Abuse, Gangs, Weapons, Poverty, Peer Pressure, Broken Homes, Poor Family Environment / Bad Neighborhoods and, Intolerance / Ignorance. The media causes youth violence because in music the youths could imitate what they hear in the song/rap. For example “you and your husband have a fight. One of you tries to grab a knife. And during the struggle he accidentally gets his Adam’s apple sliced”-Eminem. Also children that join gangs and use drugs might think it’s cool but it could be the cause of peer pressure. You’re so called “friends” pressuring you saying you’ll forget all about your problems. Then you look and you are serving 15 years for drug trafficking. Now where are your “friends”...nowhere on sight?

What can I do about youth violence?
At first I didn’t know what I could do about youth violence. But then I thought, if I can’t change the world, I could change myself. So I hope people will imitate. Then I thought of eight ways I could predominate youth violence by: 1) lead, don’t follow, 2) adjust your attitude, 3) remember your faith, 4) think about your future, 5) get involved at school, in your community, 6) stay in school, 7) surround yourself with positive people and, 8) believe in yourself. If you surround yourself with people that let you lead, be involved with your schoolwork and your community, and they also are helping you make something of yourself.