Do the Write Thing Essay

What does youth violence mean to you? How has violence affected your life? You may be one of the lucky ones who have not seen much violence, but unfortunately there are many people who have. To you, youth violence may just be kids killing and fighting, but to me, I think of youthful kids and teenagers harming and killing each other and losing their lives way too young. I think of kids who are not even 21 years old, yet they are losing and taking each others lives for no reason at all. Many times it is caused by drugs and violence and gang related matter. Many teens and kids have no guidance in their life so they are directed towards the wrong people and get caught up in violence. So how can we as a community, put an end to youth violence?

I am fortunate to not have had much violence in my life. However, my life has not been perfect and I have still witnessed my share of violence. I remember my first time truly seeing an act of violence happen and it has stuck with me until this day. I remember a few years back, I was about 10 or 11 years old. I was walking up the stairs of my house when I heard several people yelling. I turned around and I seen about 5 boys yelling and approaching one teenager. The teenager was backing up slowly but still showed no true fear as he was arguing back with them. Many words were exchanged and right in front of my house, I watched one of the boys pull out a knife and stab the boy in his head. The teenager had fallen to the floor bleeding and the boys took off. It all happened so quickly that I sat there frozen. I stood there shocked at what I had just witnessed and I had no idea what to do. About 20 seconds went by and I came back to my senses and quickly hurried up the stairs and into my house.
Many young teenagers commit acts of violence due to different reasons. Many of them are pressured into situations where they have no choice but to act like this. Gangs most of the time are a big reason why this happens. Gang related violence is a big part of youth violence. You might know somebody who is in a gang or used to participate in gang related violence. They would tell you that most violence happened when influenced or peer pressured into that situation. They would most likely tell you that they felt welcome and that they felt like they were a part of something when they were in a gang. Which most kids do, that's why they join the gang. Drugs can also lead to violence because as you may know, there are young teens who unfortunately sell drugs to make money instead of working. This can lead to youth violence as well because drug dealing is a very dangerous activity.

Youth violence will not come to an end if the community does not do anything to help it. The community can do many thing to help limit the amount of kids in the streets participating in gang violence. For one, we an create more after school programs and more community centers for kids and teens to find another way to occupy their time. These community centers would help kids and teens realize that there is a better way to spend their time rather than committing acts of violence. You may just help one person change their life for good. You may know one of your friends is in a gang. A great thing to do would to talk to them and help them see that what they're doing can be lead to harsh consequences. It's up to the community to help stop youth violence, and we can help one kid at a time.

Youth violence is a serious matter and it happens everywhere. Youth violence is nothing to take lightly because it affects people everyday. Teenagers lose their lives and become
hospitalized every year due to youth violence. I remember watching a person I knew get 
stabbed right in front of my house and it truly affected me. Teenagers feel that youth violence 
and gangs may be cool and fun, but it is nothing to joke around with. It’s up to the adults and 
youth in the community to help and stop youth violence, because you never know, your own 
friend or family member may be hurt or killed by youth violence.