Do the Write Thing

Violence has affected me in life by seeing a shooting. I was walking on Ellington Street on a hot summer day and I had just past two grown men looking like they are waiting for somebody. Next, I hear one of the grown men shout "That's him!" preferring to another guy running towards them. The two grown men then pulled out guns on the other guy and shot at him. My heart raced as I ran to my mother's friend's house even though that wasn't my destination. I never got to see what happened, but I never felt safe around that area again.

I thought later that day of how serious violence can be because I could have got shot at accidentally. Causes of youth violence are joining gangs. Some teenagers my age talk about the neighborhood they grew up in. I honestly don't think representing neighborhoods is necessary. I actually think representing neighborhoods is dangerous and life-risking. The possibilities of being in the streets is either going to jail or dying. Half of the time, I don't even believe minors who claim neighborhoods or gangs.

Gang violence can be stopped by police being stricter than they are now. Police should look out for turf war and try to prevent it so no one gets hurt. In my opinion, gang and street business can get you killed quick. I don't think street violence will ever disappear. If street violence would stop, neighborhoods would be a lot safer.

Youth could try to stop violence if there was a daily program after school. The programs could be for persuading people to stay off the streets. I think a violent-free program will decrease the street violence rate. There should be a community place where elementary and middle school students learn the consequences of violence. Programs like this would keep some people off of the streets. There should be tourists going to schools and giving a speech about violent consequences.

I think people who don't care about the future and consequences of violence should be in jail for life. If somebody doesn't care about consequences, that means they will harm somebody else. I'm against any type of violence. If you are too, then get with the program.