Youth Violence Essay

Youth violence involves young people who are usually children, adolescents, and young adults between the ages of ten and twenty four years old. The young person can either be the victim, instigator, or both. Youth violence can include behavior that is aggressive such as verbal abuse, bullying, hitting, slapping, or fist fighting. More serious acts in youth violence are assault, robbery, or murder committed by and to the youth. Along with injury and death, youth violence can weaken communities by raising prices of health care, lowering home values, and disrupting the neighborhoods. Youth violence takes place all over the United States. It is a problem that can be highly seen, but prevented.

Violence can have either a direct or indirect effect on everyone. For example, in my life I chose not to involve myself in violence. However, violence has an indirect effect on my everyday life. I am old enough to go out during the day with my friends, but I always have to be cautious of the parts of town I walk through because of violence in certain areas. When I have football practice, there are a few streets I make sure not to walk down alone because there is a lot of violence in that part of the neighborhood. I feel that there needs to be an end to youth violence especially for people like my friends and I who do not involve ourselves in it, but are still affected by it.

The problem of youth violence is an extremely noticed and high concerned problem in every part of the United States. No community is free from youth violence whether it is wealthy, poor, rural, suburban, or urban. Not only have entire communities been damaged by youth violence, but also the United States as a whole. Within the past few years, crime rates have decreased, while youth violence has increased. Since 2002, the number of crimes committed by youths has tripled in Boston. The increase in youth violence is blamed by different reasons. One of these reasons is bullying. Crimes have been reported that they are committed either by bullies or those who have been bullied. Another reason could be the area. If there are already high violence rates in the area, which is what the youth in that area grow up seeing. The media can also be a cause of youth violence because of the television or video games that show children bad behavior that they think is acceptable. Single parents or divorced parents are
blamed sometimes because children are only being disciplined by one person who can lead to violent behavior. Peer pressure is another big reason for youth violence because a friend can encourage someone to participate in violence so they can fit in. Every youth is different and can have a different reason for choosing to involve themselves or not to involve themselves in violence.

Everyone should do their part in helping to prevent youth violence. Teachers should pay attention to what is going on with their students and teach them ways to avoid violence as best they can. Parents should guide their children to live a violent free life and teach them how to respect others, while they are doing the same. Both teachers and parents should be open for their kids to talk to them and let them know what is going on. They should also set a good example for their children to follow. Children and teens can respect one another and let their friends know they are not ok with violence. Schools can do their part by having a strict policy against bullying and violence. They can also have a violence prevention committee for parents and students to come up with ways that are best for their community to prevent youth violence. The community should have either sports or clubs open for every youth so they are too busy to think of including themselves in violent acts. If everyone in each community does something to prevent youth violence it can certainly be prevented.

Youth violence is a serious problem that can cause many harmful problems for victims, their families, friends, and communities. There are many things to blame for youth violence and many different types of people to cause it. However, there are also tons of ways youth violence can be prevented. The more people who make an effort in preventing youth violence, the bigger chance there is that it will decrease.