An experience I had with violence is that my cousin Marlon almost died. So the story starts like this... We were all at his house (his family and mine) and the kids were in the room watching tv. The adults were in the porch playing cards and talking, but Marlon was down at a friends hanging out. So two hours past and it was like 11:00 and we were leaving. I went to get my sweater and I hear "HELP! HELP!" Marlon was screaming. I ran downstairs and I see a man with a knife trying to cut Marlon’s neck. I ran upstairs and told the adults and they called the police.

When I saw that I felt scared and felt that his life was on my hands. I felt like that because if I never put my sweater in the living room I wouldn’t hear that and he would’ve died. I got scared because he was like my brother we were always together and still are. If I lose him I would cry everyday.

The violent experience happened to me because it happens to everyone. It happened to me because the guy was drunk and mad. He was mad and drunk. It doesn’t mean that he meant to do it or wanted to. The reason why violent things happen in my neighborhood is because people get mad. They get mad and drunk because someone didn’t do what they said or didn’t get what they ask for. They get mad at people because they killed someone they loved.

What my community can do to avoid the violence is IGNORE IT. They can forget about and move on because if you don’t you can lose someone you love or go to jail. What we young people can do to prevent violence is take pocket knifes and guns away from young people. What we should do if we hear or see something violent, is run away and hide. Then call the police. What we should say to young people to solve the problem is “Is this going to solve anything? Do you want to stay in jail for the rest of your life? If you die or get hurt what will you do.”