Do the Right Thing!

That night felt just like any other night. This tragic event took place on a Friday night in spring of 2008. I was awoken from my sleep when I heard two teens arguing so I went to the window to watch what was going on. I wondered if they were arguing over drugs or money. In the neighborhood that I lived in they could’ve been fighting over a fake gold chain or shoe laces. That so called argument turned into a stabbing. Thanks to the giant tree that was in front of my apartment building I didn’t see it as it happened, and I am very grateful for that. This incident affected me so much. The most difficult part of this experience was listening as the by standing were encouraging what was going on. This made no sense to me. Every day for a week I kept thinking if only I had done something, if only I had called the police. All this regret and shame filled my body and made me have so much hatred for myself. Every year for the next four years when the death anniversary of that sixteen year old boy comes around, I get this gut feeling in my stomach knowing that someone could’ve prevented this.

I believe that the need for attention and popularity is the biggest cause of youth violence. Although violence is not tolerated at my school, popularity is still a major problem. Some students think that having the newest apparels will get them the attention they need. When they do get that attention they have this feeling that they’re superior to everyone else, causing them to act violently to anyone who tries to challenge them. Another reason to the violence amongst our youths is our youths are influenced by the violence around us for example; violent movies and video games. These things cause our youths to be brain washed. In order to be like the ones in the movies and TV shows youths feel like they have to be violent also. Only if they knew that they are other ways to get what you want without involving violence. Bad parenting, gang memberships, and the need to “fit it” are some other reasons to youth violence.

Youth violence can be stop! Our teens need to realize that we are our brothers keepers meaning we all have to look out, care for, and help each other instead of bringing each other down. When we see violence going on instead of by standing and encouraging it, we should stop it. Things like recording fights and putting them on social media doesn’t help make the situation any better. That is just encouraging the fight. I know that this world is never going to be a world filled with peace, love, and happiness; why don’t we all just hold our peace, give our love and be the happiest we can be? After a while I stopped blaming myself for the situation. This horrifying experience has made me realize how strong I am. It has also made me realize that when something is going wrong around me I shouldn’t just stand by and watch I should take action and maybe save a life.