STOP YOUTH VIOLENCE!

Youth violence is violence among adolescents and it can lead from having a social worker to even spending the rest of your life behind bars. Violence has affected my life because I lost my favorite cousin because of a shooting. My cousin, Jorge Luis Tovar, was born on January 15th, 1995 and died on March 14th, 2011. He was a hardworking, fun, loving, and responsible teenager who basically had his life put together for him. I remember when we used to always talk about our futures and how we'd work together and help make the world a better place.

One day, as he was out partying with a couple friends, his friend got into an argument and my cousin told him that they should leave, so they left. They didn't realize it, but the guys who were arguing with them got in their car and followed them. First, they headed to my cousin's house to drop him off. As soon as they dropped him off, the guys, thinking my cousin was his other friend (the one they were arguing with), shot him accidentally and took off. I remember receiving a phone call in the middle of the night, and my aunt crying in the back, as my cousin told us the news. I remember us racing over there and his last words... "Have the best of it, I'll always be with you," and then he was gone. Until this very day, I cry myself to sleep and I can't help but think how different life would be if he'd been here today. I can still remember those late night calls, the visits, the "talking," his voice, his warm hugs, EVERYTHING, and looking back at all those things, I know I'll never be the same as when he was
There are a lot of different causes for youth violence. Peer pressure, social media, drugs, alcohol, and depression are just a few. In the world we live in today, teens are exposed to lots of things. The things you post on social media stays with you for life, even if you remove it, the world has already seen it, and that can lead to bullying, which leads to violence and even committing suicide. Even the people you hang out with can put you in danger of violent acts. Drugs and alcohol are both big factors; once you get addicted, chances are you'll never quit and you'll do ANYTHING in your power to continue.

Youth violence is something you should try to get rid of. Hanging out with good people is something everybody could and should do. Most people instigate when it comes to violence, but to be honest, you should stay away from it. In my school, we have peace circles where students come in once every week and talk to us about things we should do about violence, how to stay away from it, and basically, anything we want to talk about. Every school should have peace circles. That way, we can work together, and stop youth violence... FOR GOD!