

Youth violence

Youth violence plays a huge part in modern-day society. There have been countless victims here in America as well as in other places. I am here to address this matter because this violence has not only affected others but also me. Violence has affected my life in various ways. I remember when I was about four or five years old, my older cousin Eva had run out on Christmas Day with her then-boyfriend Anthony without permission, we called her to ask her to come home and no matter how much I begged she kept repeating the same thing "Nothing is going to happen, Summer, I will be okay." Later that evening she was found dead in the snow with a gunshot wound to the head. My Seventeen-year-old, five-month-old pregnant cousin had been shot by her boyfriend. That day gave us my little cousin Lailani who was her child and now I've been taking care of her for eight years and she is now nine years old. I've been taking care of her since I was five and it's affected me because she is disabled and it's way different than taking care of a standard child, but I'm happy that she made it. I also remember that over the summer, my cousin Samiir had been shot by one of his friends with a gun and he also didn't make it, he was only nineteen years old. This really hurt me when I found out because I saw him three years prior to the accident and right before I was supposed to see him, he died. This violence has affected me in many ways for as long as I can remember and it's still happening today.

Most people who use this violent behavior don't have motives but some of them do. The most common reason why people resort to violence like this is that things may go on at home or something goes on at school. People who go through bullying are some of the main people that use this violent behavior. This bullying could be active during school hours or when they are at home, I have experienced bullying based on my race and the way that I look and that has caused me to have some suicidal thoughts. People may also use this behavior because of harassment or abuse they have experienced. When I was in 6th grade I had been sexually harassed by one of my classmates and that incident caused me to act out toward him, and when my brother was in his late

teenage years, he went through substance abuse, which caused him to act out and he went to jail on gun and drug possession charges and I didn't see him for four years. But one of the biggest reasons why people use violence is because they are exposed to this type of violence at home or they may see things with violence in it, but when they see actions like those take place, those people may think it's okay for them to use that behavior, and some even think it's "cool" to act out in the form of violence. Those things are serious matters and can cause violent behavior that could affect others around them.

Youth violence is a very hard thing to stop, and people have tried to do it for years but there are many failed attempts. Although it may be difficult to stop this, there is one thing that may help prevent youth violence, and that is just to start checking up on your children. Parents and guardians need to start checking up on and paying attention to their children's behavior, because maybe if they talk to them about what may be bothering them it can prevent them from taking it out on people that did nothing wrong, but one way I can help is to also go and observe people's behavior and when I see someone that might be sad and check up on them and see what they might need, or when I see someone being mistreated or when there are clear signs of them being mistreated, I can talk to them and get them the help they need. But what people need to do is to listen to people and pay attention to people when they show signs of violent behavior because people in today's society stopped caring about those signs and have become desensitized to this type of behavior and it has caused those people to be more apathetic towards those people which makes the situation worse. Maybe if we listen to them, we will hear the cry for help that they have been giving us and maybe we can stop youth violence.