



Do The Write Thing.

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I decided to focus my story on the DMV violence specifically. The DMV is where i live today, and every other day. Every day that you wish you were here. Every day that you think that it is better here. As a child, i grew up in Southeast DC. No, i did not get the privileges a normal child should have. Most of us think normal means special. We think normal means having everything you want, being able to smile everyday. But to be honest, who really knows the meaning of normal? There are so many definitions, but those definitions are all contributing to the whole.

Let's talk about the protection and safety of children. As children, we should be safe, especially in the nation's capital right? We shouldn't have to worry about our lives being taken right? We shouldn't have to pray for miracles right? Why is it that drugs are taking over children lives? Drugs are causing so many types of violence. Why is it that nobody cares to look at the bigger picture? All of these questions are getting asked, and only a selected few are trying to really find the answers. Instead of keep asking "Why", why don't you try to take an active part in finding the solution?

Mental illness is also another cause of youth violence, amongst young teens. Mental health issues, such as ADHD, bipolar, conduct disorder or many others that are being diagnosed today, all have aggressive behaviors or angry feelings as common symptoms. Did you know homicide is the second leading cause of death among young people ages 10-24 years old in the United States according to CDC?

I know we make mistakes, and I know it sticks with us. Don't let society stop you from doing what you love. We can't trip on people words, we can't focus on the hate. Gotta live our lives for us, that's what makes us great. There's many guns taking lives, kids really feeling hopeless and committing suicide. Cutting up their wrists, nobody's asking why, cause they think it's just a faze; Until they end up dying. Just keep on pushing, try not to lose faith because things always work out at the end of the day. You wouldn't be given a task you couldn't take. So when you fall just get up off the ground, dust yourself off, Life's a huge battleground. You win and you lose, but you will come around, but you gotta stay faithful; even when nobody is around.

Violence is affecting me because everyday I wake up, I have to worry about who is going to jail, or who got shot and killed. At my age, I should not have to fear for my life walking out of my door. I should not have to question if I'm gonna be the next one drowning in blood, begging god to save my life. Violence is stopping us children from perusing our ultimate goal. Violence is making us children think twice about following our dreams, because we get doubted so much. Or is it that so many children just like us fail once, and quit?

"Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win, by fearing to attempt." -William Shakespeare.

Our world could be what we want it to be. Maybe if we would stop killing our own people. Maybe if no one gives up the first time they fail. Maybe if we tried to help, instead of being bystanders. Maybe if we see our purpose in this world. Maybe if we realize we are all we got. This world is crazy, it's so much going on at once, and yes it's hard. But it's up to you, to keep pushing, or give up. No one can make that decision for you, unless you let them.

**"Life is 10% what happens to me, and 90% of how I react to it"
-Charles Swindoll.**

In order to help prevent youth violence, parents should understand the causes, instead of assuming. Social Media is causing a lot of violence and unnecessary drama. Domestic and Child abuse has a huge part in youth violence. If your child is living with abuse, they are learning how to abuse. As child abuse is seen as a cycle, children of abuse can become aggressors. Children who lacks supervision by their parents or parental figures are prone to engaging in aggressive behavior or criminal activity because they make poor choices. They make friends with the wrong people, they don't strive to do their best in school, and they often stop caring about their future.

I wouldn't say I could do anything big about youth violence, but I could pray. I could contribute to helping my neighborhood and community first. I could spread good vibes and give words of encouragement, and hope it gets passed on, as much as diseases do. If you work with what you have, eventually you will see a change. One man can change the world.