



# *Do the Write Thing* *Springfield*

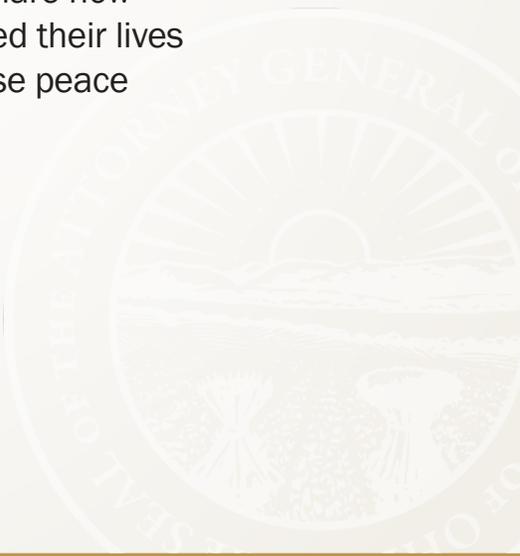


## 2024

**Springfield City School District**  
middle schoolers share how  
violence has touched their lives  
and how they choose peace



**DAVE YOST**  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



# FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

As Ohio's Attorney General, I am so pleased to have partnered with the Springfield City School District in the *Do the Write Thing* program for the fourth year in a row.

Once again, Springfield students were asked to write about how violence impacts their daily lives and to share their ideas of how to reduce violence in their community. They tackled the difficult subject with candor, thoughtfulness and insight beyond their years.

These essays always amaze me and bolster my belief that the young students who soon will inherit and guide our nation are filled with goodness and compassion.

Their words are powerful and their stories sometimes difficult to read, but their perspective is invaluable to the community. These students are our future, and we must listen to their voices to gain a better understanding of the world they live in and how we can work together for a brighter tomorrow.

I commend these young people for their honesty, courage, and commitment to making the world a better place.

I encourage everyone to take time to read the essays in this book. You may be surprised by what you learn, but I know it will leave you proud and optimistic about the generations to come.

Yours,



**DAVE YOST**  
Ohio Attorney General



# FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Congratulations and thank you for participating in the *Do The Write Thing* Challenge! What a great way to find your voice, organize your thoughts and express your emotions through writing.

You have risen to the top, distinguished yourselves from the more than 100 Springfield City School District entries and should be very proud of your accomplishments throughout the process. Your teachers, principals, parents and the Springfield community are celebrating with you every step of the way.

Being able to express your feelings through writing is a powerful skill. While writing about a very serious topic like violence is not an easy task — it is an important one.

No community is immune to violence and its devastating effects, but to turn the tables and create positive change in our schools, neighborhoods and cities should be commended and acknowledged. Your voices are making an impact in the SCSD community and throughout Ohio as well.

Our District is thankful for Attorney General Dave Yost and his staff for realizing the many talents of our SCSD students and the potential to create change that each of you possesses. Each year that our District has participated in this writing challenge, more and more adults have had their eyes opened for the first time to what you experience on a daily basis. We see you, we hear you and we are here to support you.

I extend my best wishes to the top two finalists who will be continuing on to Washington, D.C., but I hope that ALL of the students who participated in this challenge understand: You have the power each day to make positive decisions and influence those around you. Remember that you are always capable of making a difference — sometimes it starts with just the stroke of a pen and finding a way to put the words on paper.

Go Wildcats!

Sincerely,



**Bob**

ROBERT F. HILL, Ed.D.  
Superintendent and CEO  
Springfield City School District



# ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This book contains a compilation of writings by middle-school students who were selected as the top 10 finalists of the 2024 *Do the Write Thing* program. This book will be shared across the community in recognition of all the students who accepted the challenge to share their voices and help create a safer, more peaceful society.

## Overview of Do the Write Thing

*Do the Write Thing* is a unique national program designed to give middle-school students an outlet to communicate in classroom discussions and then in writing how violence impacts their daily lives. In addition to exposing the causes and effects of violence, students are asked to share their ideas on reducing violence in their community.

The program asks students to express in stories, poems and songs, or in any other written forms, the violence they've faced, with an emphasis on exploring these key questions:

- How does violence affect your daily life?
- What are some of the causes of youth violence in your community?
- What can you as an individual do to reduce youth violence in your community?

The benefits of the challenge are many. Students gain a greater empathy and understanding for victims of violence and realize that their positive actions can make a difference in their own home, schools and neighborhoods. Teachers gain a better awareness of what is happening in their students' lives and in the school culture. Community leaders benefit from greater understanding of the impact that violence has on youth and learn from the students' stories and ideas for reducing violence.

## Do the Write Thing in Springfield

During the 2023-24 school year, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost partnered with the Springfield City School District for the *Do the Write Thing* program.

The program was well received, with more than 101 seventh- and eighth-grade students submitting essays.

Springfield community and business leaders volunteered their time to read each essay and choose the 10 submissions most responsive to the key questions. From the top 10, two students were selected to become Ohio ambassadors to the national *Do the Write Thing* conference in Washington, D.C.

A special thank you to all of the community volunteers, teachers, principals and school administrators who helped make *Do the Write Thing* such a great success in Springfield.



*Do the Write Thing is the flagship program of the National Campaign to Stop Violence and has been in existence for 29 years. It operates programs in 28 cities in 14 states. Over the past 29 years, more than 1.5 million middle school students have submitted writings to the program.*

*The primary sponsor for the Do the Write Thing program is the Kuwait-America Foundation.*



## ESSAY 1

# KARILYN BOINGS

Schaefer Middle School

Violence is everywhere there's no way out  
It picks you and it doesn't let you go  
It holds you tight leaving bruises  
Bruises to your brain your body you can't forget,  
To when you wake up to when you close your eyes it's always there  
Standing two steps in front of you

Violence just wants you to see it, it wants you to notice them  
Drugs, no money, no education mostly everything causes violence  
Violence wants to get ahold of you and hold you tight  
So tight that it feels like it's hard to breath  
Tight enough that it feels like your bones are being crushed

You wanna escape it there's no easy way out  
You want it to let go, you can't let them know it's hurting you  
You gotta play with its mind  
You are more powerful than they will ever be  
You have patience, you know you self worth  
Use that against them if they don't see you cry, they feel bad about themselves  
Like they can't do anything right, to beat violence you have to avoid it  
No matter how hard it has ahold of you no matter how badly you want to cry  
You got to be always be four steps in front of them and don't look back  
Don't let them get to you  
Don't let them see you at your lowest



## ESSAY 2

# LILY BURCHAM

Roosevelt Middle School

Bullying is such a heavy topic for most, some can't relate but more cry upon the subject. Bullying can just as much physically affect someone as mentally affect someone. Just a simple tease or joke could cause so much more than could you would ever want to imagine. Due to bullies many people become suicidal, self harm themselves or even become school shooters to feel the justice they needed and feel they deserved when they were being bullied. Bullying can become a lifelong effect on people, causing others to feel insecure and feeling forced to spend their time just trying to build up their confidence after, even as an adult. I personally have been affected by bullying from teasing to even being told to even end my life.

Bullying is so heavily shushed and pushed to the side. This year I went through many tough life changing experiences in a very short time span. Earlier this year I came very close to losing my mom, my grandma and finally losing my great aunt, this was all happening during soccer and volleyball season. Due to not being able to tell my friends, teammates and even other family members I felt silenced. After a few weeks it became harder and harder everyday to push through and show up everyday with a smile on my face, like nothing was going on. This caused me to feel close to rock bottom and almost depressed. My twin sister and I were left to live on our own for a week, before my brother came back we went to bed everyday wondering if we would ever see our mom again. While my family were twelve hours away in Boston my sister and I were stuck at home by ourselves having to provide for ourselves with little help. During this time I started getting what I didn't understand until after that I was getting bullied during that time I felt I had more people against me than really supporting me. I was too scared to tell a trusting adult for a little while until it got to a point where I would find myself crying due to the name calling and physical effects, even though at times it might not have been direct I still felt attacked. But as I came to realize bullying is so much more than someone picking on someone else it became a realization on how someone views themselves it's not always how they actually feel about you. Bullies usually tend to get motives from what they've gone through or are still going through whether that's from troubles at home, bad

grades, or even just lack of confidence and there's so many more you wouldn't even realize. So just take away from all of this if you're going through hard times and others are making it harder, just know they might be going through a tough situation as well, people just have to remember that you're never alone.

There are so many ways to prevent bullying whether that's being kind, making trusting adults aware of tough situations, or even just being a friend. But the disappointing part of bullying is it will never go away completely, there will always be people talking behind your back, there will always be jealous people, and finally there's always going to be a bully whether you see it or not. People wouldn't always choose the life they are given but that's life, so many people are very fortunate and sadly more are less fortunate than others. Bullying is usually caused by what you have, whether that's friends, money, or even popularity, as the passage Bullying written by Erin Cob states, "When asked who they pick on, some answered weird kids, annoying kids, kids who cry easily, wimpy kids, and tattletales". Many kids are being labeled and picked on for where others believe they are grouped in, this could easily cause others to feel sad and alone. Kids everyday are picked on for just being different, that makes it very hard for kids to be themselves. I often find my peers bullying just so they can fit in with the "cool kids". To sum up, people everyday are being affected by in person bullying whether that's physical or verbal just to fit in with the society.

Additionally, in person bullying isn't always the case, sadly lots of people take it as far as posting something hurtful or even sending threatening texts or messages through social media. This is called cyberbullying, "cyber bullying is bullying that takes place over digital devices like cell phones, computers, and tablets".(stop bullying.gov) Also pewresearch.org, states "59% of U.S teens have been bullied or harassed online, and a similar share says its a major problem for people their age". Therefore more than half of the U.S has experienced online bullying and that's only the online percent, imagine how many cases have not been caught or confronted. In all, the country is so heavily affected by cyberbullying.



### ESSAY 3

## ISABELLA CARR

Hayward Middle School

### End Violence

Imagine yourself, walking outside, your shoes making loud steps as you walk across the gray sidewalk, trees around you on every side, while walking steadily, you feel your heart beating as if its out of your chest, you look at every corner of every pitch-black shadows falter across the area, your head throbbing with multiple worries and reassuring comments that you say to yourself as your eyes look frantically for something, that you believe might just happen.

Or, in another scenario, you're dropping your kid off to a school, for the first time in their life, you wonder whether or not everything will be okay? Will they get hurt? What if the other kids don't like them?

Maybe you're the student, and you're sitting in class, when all of a sudden, you hear a loud ring from the bell, its alarm ringing loudly as it yells out "LOCKDOWN." You rush behind the cabinets that sit all across the wall in the back, all the other students huddled in the same spot that leans close yet away from the doors view, your teacher covers the windows and closes the curtains, along with locking the door.

These are some of the many effects that come with violence, for example, many people, grown ups and kids both don't like going outside, it could be a normal fear of the dark, but, it's a lot of the time it's what's IN the dark, and not the darkness itself. I experienced this myself a lot of the time (especially when I'm taking my dog outside) I get spooked at the simplest things like my own dog's bark. A lot of the time people get that worry because of either stories that they hear from others about kidnappings, shootings or stabbings, or even if you were threatened by someone, parent's also have this worry for their kids.

As for the second scenario, parents all around worry about their kids in school, either from their own past experiences or from others. Why, You might ask? Well, with the help of this website, parents.com it carefully explains that "... According to Dr. Duffy, parents might worry about all kinds of things: academics, school shootings, mental health crises, social media activities, drug usage. They can hear about scary situations on the news — such as cyberbullying or classroom violence—and worry their kid will experience the same." I interviewed my mother as well, and she said Academics and bullying were the main two problem in.

Lastly, lockdowns, "Isabella! What do lockdowns have to do with this?! Lockdowns are supposed to be keeping us safe aren't they?" Yes, they are, and they do! however, the fact that lockdowns even **EXIST** is the problem, my teachers THEMSELVES, stated this, and my mom agreed with it. Back in the 1900's lockdowns did not happen, this is because of school shootings, and people bringing weapons. Along with fights. But why does this all happen? Why did school shootings happen?,

Well, some people who used to go to the school either come to intact 'revenge', either that or they randomly just went into the school and decided to hurt others because of past things, according to alfred.edu school shootings can happen because they were either hurt in some way, bored, threatened to, and more. Of course, none of that justifies what they did.

There's really no way to really stop this, but there are some things that can help to prevent it, for example, therapy, metal detectors in school (this is to prevent people from bringing in knives or guns, despite this our school Hayward NEEDS metal detectors real bad, that's my huge issue in this school, I've seen kids bring in weapons, IN HAYWARD!), police or adults at entrances, and outside of school near sidewalks (Why do I say this? Because kids are more safe DURING school than AFTER school because kids will threaten to fight mostly outside of school to lower the chances of getting themselves into trouble by cops or teachers to both not go into suspension/expel or simply jail / juvy. I would also say add more hiding spots in the school rather than have your students hide in open areas (behind cabinets or behind / under desks) Maybe basements or attics or even just plainly empty cabinets that allow multiple people to hide in rather than hide out in plain sight when or IF the person comes in, that way both the kids AND teacher is safe and not in plain sight when a lockdown happens. Like a safe room (I understand those are very expensive so its hard, but fake cabinets would probably be a good idea).

Despite all of this, if there was maybe a better way to have more security and protection for both teachers and students, even parents, we would most likely have less violence. If we continue to work to help schools systems / the **WORLDS** systems to keep others safe I'm sure it'll massively damage the large volume of violence in the world.



## ESSAY 4

# ADOLFO CRUZ JR.

Schaefer Middle School

In order to stop youth violence we have to first look at the kids who are invisible from others, when kids or teens who are ignored or not payed attention to it triggers a emotion of anger and sadness towards them which lets it control them and if they let this anger control them they want to do something violent as in a few examples: kill, steal, hate towards others who haven't done anything to them and make others feel bad toward each other. We also have to look at the parents which some have firearms and other types of things which if the kids or teens get control they can use them to their advantage and will cause things that they will regret for the rest of their life's. We also have to look at the fact that some kids are bullied and the hate they have towards each other and help those in need who don't get that attention from other, the ones who start bullying others come from others who have bullied them in the past and the only way they can get rid of that past is to do it to others which makes keep going on and on and there is no end to it.

What I can do to stop youth violence is to talk to them, try to make them not let their anger control them since it's usually what makes them think and do these types of acts towards others. Another way is to make sure they have what they need in their households things like, food, clothes, shoes, and other essentials like that and to make sure they are at least talked to and get attention from others. To make one not think from their anger is to get them to do activities like going to the park, play games, go to the movie theater or something like that to keep them off their minds that keep them mad. Another way to control youth violence or a way I can is to tell them what happens when you follow this path of violence and hatred as in I can help anybody who wants to be heard in many ways like their problems, their issues, and what keeps them from keep going on in life.

So what everybody has been waiting for. How has violence affected me in my life? So lets start in the beginning, growing up around 3 to 5 years old I grow up with a

parent who was pretty horrible with me and my siblings, growing up it was painful like for a few examples: I couldn't do anything to entertain myself like watch tv or play with toys or just in general do anything due to the fact I lived in a household where everything was controlled by my father money, places to go, who to talk to, just something that not only me but others who suffer like this pains me to know and see this type of violence happens to others. During my ages of 6 to 9 my father, which pains me to say he is my father, would make us do stuff that isn't right and those times were when I didn't know they were right and I believe him so much that at the end we're never going to happen. My time of 10 to 15 were my times where my father left to go to another country and I didn't see him for about 1 to 2 years and I thought I wouldn't see him ever again but I was so wrong when he came back the lies and violence came back like waves in the ocean and my mom who was the best mom who ever could have would make sure that I lived my life with happiness and peace and not a life of terror and fear all around me. My mom who has talked to me about the wrong and right, and not to be the same man my father tried to make me be. But after all this, all the wrong he has done to me. I forgive him since I don't want my anger to take control of me and turn to violence and do this whole act of hatred, and just to leave it all in the past and change in order for this violence to stop. Thank you for listening to me.

This was all of the experiences that happened at a young age and currently of violence and how I didn't let violence change me into someone who is full of hate I hope that someday all of this changes and that we all live in peace, in a world of happiness and peace and that people live in a place where they can let their children not be afraid of going outside and get shot and killed for no reason. To live in a world where everything is in order, happiness, etc. I hope that this is heard and hope that the youth don't use violence or anybody doesn't use and to think about stuff instead of doing it and regretting it. Thank you for listening to it.



**ESSAY 5**

# GAGE EVERAGE

Roosevelt Middle School



**BE THE SPARK**

Life, life, life it begins with

Light, light, light and sometimes

Darkness comes into sight, bad things you

See can be appealing but don't let it be concealing, don't be what you see

Be what you seek, don't let bad things fool you or you will be behind bars where life is hard, violence, it should not be reliant,

So be the spark, don't make life hard.

School, school, school, has many types of people, and for some people it's not peaceful, bullying, what took my uncles life, you can think people are alright,

But you never no what they feel on the inside, so check on your people

Because you could save a life, instead of reacting violently, think, don't make others life sink, be the spark.

Violence isn't because of you it's what surrounds you, abuse, guns, bullying, all causes of violence but let's not make it be caused we need it to be solved, as a kid you just wanna be big, everyone has a story but not all are glory, what you are around is what you become and that's how violence comes, because not everyone knows right from wrong, please don't be the cause, try to solve.



## ESSAY 6

# LESTER HAMBLIN

Roosevelt Middle School

My life is filled with bullies who are mean because they feel they are bad and mad. They feel that way because their parents are abusive and or drunk. Their parents make them upset so they go to school and let loose their rage. They are mean, rude and annoying to make them feel powerful. They need to feel powerful so they exists without depression. Their family being broken and toxic has turned them into bullies. There bullying leads to there home life becoming more toxic. They become Even bigger bullies when their home life gets worse and worse.

Home life toxicity can cause them to shoot schools. They can be ready to fight everyone they see. There chaotic nature is amplified by toxicity from their siblings, parents or friends. The best way to help is to try to find a way to reduce home life toxicity. There family needs to learn what they cause and need to be punished harshly. The less people who are toxic to their children the less bullies. Bullying creates more bully's which snowballs into a toxic hell like environment. That creates more toxic people and that is quite bad. It makes people mad and makes them angry and likely to start over drinking which makes them drunk.

I don't think it's stoppable. But we as a community are capable of slowing it down. By punishing people who become toxic by giving them prison sentences. The punishments must be extreme to make it slow down even a tiny fraction of what it is now. Its speed is the

fault of stupid people who don't understand what they cause with their actions. Part of the problem is cops with favoritism who can cause people to be toxic. They need to be imprisoned for their actions. They need to be punished and their bosses also need to be punished for letting them go on.

Another cause is poor working conditions which makes them toxic. This is caused by rich greedy idiots who make their employees work in poor conditions. As a result the workers are toxic at home which causes bullying. The company needs to make it more comfortable for their employees.

Another type of youth violence is school shootings which are caused by mean dumb people who don't think about their actions. The school shooters are caused by rude people. They make people aggressive which leads to them shooting schools.

The root causes of these problems are adults who don't know what they're actions can trigger. They need to be taught what they're actions can make people do. That may reduce the amount of people who do those actions but that will not fully get rid of it. We can reduce it even further by helping those who are affected by them by having them go to a therapist or school for special needs kids. These solutions will be very helpful for everyone who has been affected by toxic adults and our society will be much better after word.



## ESSAY 7

# EVANGELINE RUTHERFORD

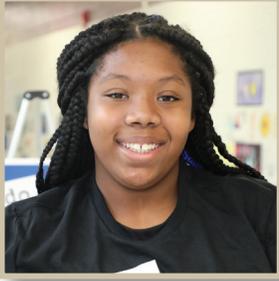
Schaefer Middle School

Violence affected my life by making me have mental issues because of my life experience of being bullied and yelled at and my entire life so far has been good and terrible. At school I can feel people making fun of me and I don't like it. I love my life. I don't care what people say or think about me anymore but I'm getting really tired of it and sometimes I don't care about my life. It's hard for me to keep control over my emotions because of the violence in my life and it's tiring. I'm used to being bullied by others and I don't know what I'm doing wrong but it feels like my life my emotions control me overall I'm just sad all the time. I used to cry all the time when I was sick, scared, and sad but that's when I was younger and I'm still learning how to control myself and I like to listen to sad music and creepy music just to make myself feel good about myself and I just drown myself in it and one of the songs I listen to is called (CRYBABY) now I still have problems with the violence but it's getting better. I don't like talking a lot but if I have to talk to my friends then I will. I love myself and my family so much but sometimes I don't even care about myself. I'm still young but I'm more mature than I am but I'm still immature in some ways

The causes of youth violence is smoking, drinking alcohol, and drugs are just a few examples that cause

youth violence and they're just terrible for teens. I will never do anything like that ever ever and that's a promise I'm planning to keep. Drinking alcohol can increase anger and frustration. People say it's to make them feel good about themselves because they had violent experiences with parents and siblings. Youth violence affects people one way or another but can be avoided if you have a strong relationship with parents then you don't have to worry too much about it. Peer pressure is another example of youth violence as well as drug and alcohol use.

Well if I have kids in the future I will work hard to be a good mother and I will stop youth violence from spreading to my family. I will help them with their problems and homework. I will be a loving mother to them. I will never break their heart and I will never let anyone hurt my child. I'll teach them how to read and I will stop the cycle of violence from happening again. When you're an adult you have more self awareness and you're likely to get in less trouble and you can make your own decisions and choices which are basically the same thing. I will make good choices for myself and I won't choose violence. I will correct myself if I do wrong and I will try not to mess up.



## ESSAY 8

# TAH' TIONNA TAYLOR

Schaefer Middle School

Growing up I didn't have many violent times, there are some memories of violence I would never forget. Most of the violent times in my life were my mother and my uncle arguing but some fights were worse than others. Growing up my mother had many arguments with her brother, my uncle was on drugs while I was growing up he was also in and out of jail. When he got out of jail he would stay at our house. When we weren't home or sleeping he would steal from us, little things at first then he started taking bigger items from us. My uncle would sell our things to get money, not to do any good with it he would buy more and more drugs. My mom hated that he stayed with us but he had nowhere else to go. For my 6th birthday my mom bought me one of the last rocket band game sets. The set included the drums, guitars, microphones and all that for my Xbox. My uncle stole it and sold it for drugs then left the drugs in my moms house everywhere. That was the last straw for my mother, as soon as my uncle came back she was waiting in the living room. My mother and uncle were arguing what seemed like forever. My uncle told my mom that she was worthless and was a terrible mother and my mom picked up one of the heaviest items in the room and threw it at him. I'm now in 7th grade and my uncle doesn't speak to me anymore because of what happened with him and my mother. I have to admit that it did have a role on me, I vowed to myself that day that I wouldn't let anyone treat me a way I know I shouldn't be treated, I'm one of the strongest people I know.

There are many causes of youth violence it could be from parents, school, social media and more. All violence is bad in its own way like parental violence can be abusive or sexual assaulting. School violence is like bullying and fighting. In school it's like if other kids think fights are cool then others will start fighting which can lead to someone getting very hurt. Social media violence has the most impact. When kids or teens realize that violence can get them likes and views and people think they're funny they'll start to do the things they

see on the internet. On social media you can see people playing with guns, drinking, smoking and much more. In this generation kids and teens can't walk down one street without seeing an act of violence. If violence is all someone sees then they'll participate in it. It's hard to not engage in violence in this generation, if you don't then you're scared if you do people think badly about you. People don't know what to do when in a situation like this. Sometimes if you have violent friends and you don't do what they do they'll make up rumors. Even if you do not participate in violence but have violent friends people may look at you as a danger to your community. Kids and teens do not want to be seen as a danger so when they are it lowers their self esteem which makes them act out more.

What I can do about youth violence is let kids know it's ok and that they can talk to people about what's going on or what happened in the past. Most kids feel as if they're a school counselor or counselor in general will tell they're parents. Another reason why kids don't open up is because they don't wanted to be picked on about it or have people treat them like they're helpless or even be treated as a baby. For many others it's just hard for them to open up and tell people about their problems and their past. Kids and teens don't think it makes a difference to open up but it will. It's just like a big relief when everything comes out. Another reason why is that kids and teens feel like they have no one to trust or when they tell parents they will just brush them off. Which sometimes that is true but just getting what you think about something or just how you feel and what you've been going through could actually make an impact. It does not matter if your family, counselor, or any other school peer it's always going to be hard for someone to open up especially their violent times. Overall it's just nice to have someone and that's what I want kids and other teens to know that everyone has a different past and it will be okay if they share theirs.



## ESSAY 9

# LUSDARIS VANEGAS SANTOS

Hayward Middle School

About seven people in the United States die a violent death each hour due to homicide, suicide, or death due to violence. There are many different kinds of violence but the most common is physical violence. Physical violence is when someone uses physical force to control another person such as hitting, punching, slapping, kicking or uses any sort of weapon to harm you. This is a very common type of violence and it can happen anywhere and anytime.

Some of my family members have been victims of physical violence. In which they stopped trusting strangers. Like I said violence can happen anywhere and any time. Where I have seen the most violence is at schools with bullying and unsafe neighborhoods. It is really sad to wake up to the news that a school shooting has happened and innocent students dying because of physical violence. Physical violence can have some serious impact on people that can lead to suicide and trauma.

Some of the things you can do if someone threatens or does any physical violence to you is that you should tell

someone immediately or else they would do it again. Tell someone you trust and feel comfortable with or call the police for help. Telling someone will make you feel safe and cared for.

What can we do to prevent physical violence? There are programs and everyone spreading the word about physical violence. It is important to help someone who is a victim of physical violence. And there are more and more people sharing their stories to show others that they are not alone.

There are many reasons why people hurt others. Sometimes they want to do it for fun but there are also some where the people doing the physical violence might have been a victim of physical violence as well. In some cases people can be mentally ill and hurt others accidentally. I believe it is still wrong for anyone to hurt or murder others.

Physical violence can have an impact on people and it's not okay to do it. There have been lots of violence in our world and it has to change. So our world becomes a better place.



## ESSAY 10

# ARYANA YOUNG

Roosevelt Middle School

Youth violence has affected me in a way others usually wouldn't have been affected by. As I went into summer after my 7th grade year I started to feel like I didn't belong into this world, which caused me to have suicidal thoughts. The causes for these thoughts is my appearance because I don't like the way I look and getting bullied so much to the point where I changed my style. I believe that if others hear a story that involves suicide and they were having thoughts like these as well I could inform them that they aren't alone. A solution for trying to avoid violence is therapy. I've gone almost every Monday and she talks to me about things that I never would've thought about if it wasn't for her. She also helps me do things to try and avoid having these harmful thoughts. As I get older I start to hear about children killing themselves because of family issues and getting bullied, but as I hear about this I see that the cause of the child ending it all isn't bothered at all and it's heartbreaking to see an adult or parent not caring about their child, especially when it comes to something like this. I would try and tell people to trust their parents but some parents don't care, all they care about is not letting their child make them look like a fool. Since some children can't tell or trust their guardian, a suggestion I have is to tell a teacher that you trust and maybe they could help out. As life goes on I hope that I can see the value in my appearance and that I was made this way for a reason! I also hope that other children come to realize that they have a big life ahead of them and not to give up on life just yet.

One cause of Youth Violence is gun violence. Gun violence has taken over a lot of our younger community! According to "Teens involvement in gun violence and

how to end it" Dave Meminger, writer for Spectrum News 1 stated "Last year, 124 people under 18- years old were arrested for firing a gun, and there were 153 gunshot victims under the age of 18." This shows how people's lives get taken and how many people have taken the lives of others in their age group. Another thing that this quote says to me is that the people who have taken others' lives have probably grown up with guns so that's what they're used to. Finally, another cause of youth violence is Social Media. On social media people could be cyber bullying which could cause people to do suicide or starve themselves because someone made a comment on your body after you posted a picture of yourself. Social Media can be a dangerous place depending on how you use it, so some advice I have is to stay away from videos that involve violence and try to keep a positive mindset through tough times.

Talking to authorities can help prevent youth violence because the police or public health can help try and talk to you about these things or get you into therapy. Therapists don't only talk to you about your problems, they dig deeper into the problem which can tell them the main cause for your situation. Another good solution to preventing youth violence is asking for help because talking about your problems will help relieve a lot of stress off of you and it will feel so much better to tell someone how you're feeling because they could be going through the same thing, then you wouldn't be alone. Finally, the last good solution to preventing youth violence is finding solutions to your problems once again is a good way to relieve a lot of stress off of you. Also, finding solutions could in some situations save your life or others.



Participants from Hayward Middle School



Xyxyxyxyx Xyxyxyyx speaks to students during the opening assembly.



Participants from Roosevelt Middle School



Xyxyxyxyx Xyxyxyxyx speaks to students during the opening assembly.



Participants from Schaefer Middle School





**DAVE YOST**

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

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