

EJ
Grade 7

School Violence

Violence has become a growing issue worldwide, and leaders in the schools and communities need to take action. There is too much violence in schools. The worst incident in my mind was the Virginia Tech shooting, because this event could have been stopped if officials noticed signs that something was wrong. We need to address these issues to help something like this to never happen again. It's not just violence like shootings, things like a school fight can elevate to something worse and someone can get badly injured. The way leaders can help prevent all this is to make events, assemblies and classes to help with violence. Students can also reach out to other kids and make them feel welcome and that they fit in and have friends.

One way to stop things like this is for leaders to take action against violence in schools and towns. Principals can set up help groups so kids who are having issues with other students can go there and get a second opinion. Also a place where kids can go where if they say something it is completely confidential. We can set up fundraisers and school activities to raise money for these programs. Then once people see the effect of these programs they will be more willing to donate. For instance if a student is getting bullied by an older stronger student, he is scared to tell anyone because he thinks it will just get worse. If we have a place where this student can go and get help it will benefit him, also he doesn't have to fear the bully finding out what he said. Another thing we can do is have assemblies and functions where kids can go and find out how much it hurts to be bullied, and if they see how it would feel to be in the persons shoes that they

are bullying they might decide to stop. The most important thing is to make sure that the point gets across to the student that violence is bad and if you were in other students position how would you feel if you were getting bullied or picked on. In my school we have a program called Triumphant Teens, this helps you think good things and build your self-image. So maybe in other schools we can have a class like this that helps teach things on how to prevent school violence. We can also have a class that is required to take for a semester. Instead of having two electives you can have one and this class. Another thing we can do is in science or classes where there is a lot of group work, we can make it so that kids who usually wouldn't work together work together to make more friends and meet different kinds of people.

Ways that other students can help prevent school violence is when they see a student who might not have as many friends and invite them to places. Just take a little time to say hi, or help them. Also if we see violence is about to occur or happening we can try to stop it. Maybe if students just say how it was like to be an "outsider" and not have all the friends, all the clothes, and all the money they would be more willing to help other kids. We just need to be more understanding and help when we can. Also if us kids notice signs that someone might be having trouble and might do something they will regret to tell an adult. If kids can notice these things we can help stop school violence, like the Virginia Tech shooting. If they can help just one person it could save many people in a big way. Many other ways is if we can be more inviting to new people instead of thinking that they are already bad it would be a lot better. Maybe if we did just random acts of kindness, like if someone loses their lunch give them a dollar to help them out. This can really make people see you in a different way and if you need a favor they

will be more willing to help. Something like this can change someone's day because they feel like that person went out of their way to help me out and they can think of you in that way.

These are ways that leaders and students can help end school violence and make their school a better learning environment. If kids have to not worry what's going to happen, if they are going to have to fight someone and can just focus on school and get good grades.