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We Shall Overcome
A Solution to drugs and violence

A recurring problem in my community is students involved with drugs and with violence. These issues usually occur after school and over the weekend. I've been thinking of a few solutions to these problems. I would like to share these solutions with you.

I believe if we had a mandatory leadership course at our schools, students would be more likely to end the (above) issues. It would teach preteens and teens the refusal skills and leadership techniques necessary for independent, smart and expressive future leaders. A leadership class would be a great addition to the school day.

To help the community with drug and violence issues, I also think there should be more activities available. By activities I mean my community could add after school youth groups at places like the library or a community center. The youth group could perform different activities such as bowling, community service and writing groups. The youth group could even raise money for schools in the area by holding fundraisers. This youth group would benefit both youth and schools by keeping kids out of trouble; allowing them to also meet new people and make new friends. This could also potentially help to reduce bullying. A youth group could benefit many different groups and individuals.

To decrease violence and drug use, adults in the community could be more aware. Not all adults are as alert and aware about violence, bullying, and drug abuse as they could be. There could be classes or meetings for adults in the community so they become more aware about bullying, violence and drugs.

Another solution would be a different school schedule. Schools should start and end later. My community's middle and high schools start before 8 and end after 2. If our school schedule was more similar to the intermediate and elementary schools there may not be as much trouble because we would start at around 9 and end at about 4. Kids would have more time to sleep in so they wouldn't be as moody and people wouldn't have as much free time in the evening. After school is the worst time of the day as kids are more likely to get into trouble after school because they may not get much adult supervision and have too much free time.

Another solution I have for this issue is to have more inclusive school sports. For example, instead of having a single team, schools could add two teams. My school no longer has two basketball teams for example. They cut down to one team and it has rejected many girls and boys who are eager to learn and play the sport. If school teams included more people, the students wouldn't be involved in drugs and violence because they are committed to a team. The people who aren't currently involved in a sport are more likely to start getting into drugs and violence.

The last solution I have would be to make it mandatory for each student to be involved in at least one school sport or an after school activity. With students involved in activities that teach leadership skills, drugs and violence will gradually decrease.

While drugs and violence may always exist, I know the least we can do is decrease the rate of them. All it takes is everyone, young and old, putting in a little effort. With everyone caring about the future generations, maybe as a nation we can greatly decrease crime throughout the country.