

# 2013 Gun Violence Prevention Youth Ideas

## ROOT CAUSES OF GUN VIOLENCE

### EMOTIONAL ISSUES

- Anger (popular response)
- Depression (popular response)
- Low self-esteem
- People bully others because their life is bad and they want others to feel sad with them.
- People bully out of anger
- Need for attention
- Hatred
- Stupidity
- Fear
- Pride/ego
- Suicides
- Jealousy
- A person's blatant lack of respect for humanity
- Mental instability
- Not knowing how to handle what's going on
- Mental or physical disability
- Medication

### PERSONAL ISSUES OR CIRCUMSTANCES

- Problems at home (popular response)
- Lack of support
- Family death
- Family, people messing with someone else's family
- Personal issues with another person
- Kids on the streets
- Easy access to weapons
- Protection
- Lack of parental involvement
- Don't have everything
- Gambling
- Alcohol/drugs
- Medication
- Lack of education
- Homelessness

## **FINANCIAL**

- Jobs or lack of jobs, unemployment (popular response)
- Money (popular response)
- Poverty or financial issues (popular response)
- Selling them [guns]
- Vehicle
- Gun purchasing

## **INFLUENCE**

- Trend – following others (popular response)
- Peer pressure, influenced, or pushed into it (popular response)
- Bullying (popular response)
- Following friends
- Alcohol/drugs

## **CRIME**

- Drugs (popular response)
- The wrong person having a gun
- Theft
- Trespassing
- Rape

## **SOCIAL**

- Gangs or gang lands/disputes/rivalries (popular response)
- Fights/disputes (popular response)
- Revenge (popular response)
- Rumors, “he said, she said,” or words back and forth (popular response)
- Disrespect (popular response)
- The internet, social media, Facebook, Myspace, online chats, Twitter etc. (popular response)
- Misunderstandings
- House parties
- Personal issues with another person
- Show outs
- Disputes over girls

# SOLUTIONS TO GUN VIOLENCE

## POSITIVE, RELATIONSHIPS, ACTIVITIES, AND INFLUENCE

- “Get a personal guard to protect you”
- “Don’t give out too much information about yourself on a social media website”
- “Don’t hang around the wrong people”
- “Youth express how uncool it is”
- “School assemblies on respect and bullying situations”
- “Teen to teen talks”
- “Start to help more”
- “Work with each other, not against each other”
- “Speak up”
- “Befriend a bully”
- “Try to stand up for yourself”
- “Creating network solutions in identifying bullies online, i.e. Bully Alert”
- “Positive activities”
- “Support groups”
- “Find a group of friends that appreciate”
- “Violence free zone”
- “Bring African American males together in a positive way”
- “Music”
- “Positive artwork”
- “If people want to get in a group make that group great and make it help the community not full of drugs, guns, or violence”
- “Home ownership”
- “God’s faith”
- “Be productive”
- “People could do other things to stay out of trouble and make a positive change in the world”
- “Charity work”
- “Stop trying to fit in/get fame”
- “Do more positive things

## MANAGE EMOTIONS & MENTAL HEALTH

- “Watch funny videos when you feel like bullying”
- “Therapy”
- “Apologize”
- “Laugh”
- “Sensitivity training for adults”
- “Mental health”
- “Respect”
- “Find another way to resolve conflicts”
- “Learn to respect each other”

## **COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

- “Talk about the root cause of bullies”
- “Larger and more frequent community activities”
- “Leaders talk it out with each other”
- “Provide places for them to stay”
- “Project Ujima”
- “Bring people together like today”
- “Parenting home center”
- “Daycare, counseling for parents, sex education, supplies for children like diapers”
- “Coming together”
- “Work together”
- “Raise money to get people out of the streets”
- “Clean up the streets!”
- “Youth need more opportunity to report bullying”
- “Youth feel like they can talk to adults”
- “We can send letters to places telling them how much people are dying from drugs”
- “Talk to mayor”
- “Begin community watch teams”
- “Get more community involvement”
- “Create more community centers or more advertisements for community centers”

## **FAMILY INVOLVEMENT**

- “More parental supervision”
- “Listen to your parents”
- “Give examples of activities families can do together”
- “Family counseling”

## **GANG VIOLENCE**

- “Have undercover police track the gangs’ hideouts”
- “Get people informed about gangs and try to get enough people to stop them”
- “We should have everybody involved with a gang sit and talk about what’s going on in the world”
- “Stop the gangs, get out of the groups”
- “Stop the crime in public places”
- “Spread news against gangs amongst teens”

## **DRUGS/ALCOHOL**

- “They can stop selling drugs”
- “Rehab centers”
- “Stop the drugs that pass through the streets”

## **TARGET KEY AREAS/GROUPS**

- “Start a bullying prevention group in that area”
- “Have positive events take place in the bad places” (place-making)
- “Group to help kids in hood”

## **RESTRICT ACCESS/DISINCENTIVIZE**

- “Shut down sites that sell guns online”
- “Destroy computers”
- “Give them a fee of \$50 or \$1000”
- “Raise price” [of guns/bullets]

## **EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT**

- “Find better teachers that truly care about the students”
- “Stay in school”
- “Provide places for them to stay, school supplies, and education”
- “Better life opportunities”
- “Introduce kids to apprenticeships”
- “Understand that money is not the most important thing in the world”
- “Job placement centers”
- “Get more jobs in the community”
- “Job readiness programs”
- “More teachers to look out for it”
- “Better opportunities for youth”
- Work-related needs: “Work ethic, email address, education, references, experience, higher paying jobs”
- “Eliminate drug groups to push those people to try and get real-income jobs”
- “More strict education”

## **EMPOWER LEADERS**

- “Give kids responsibilities so they play a real part”
- “Give felons a chance to redeem themselves”
- “Power”
- “Encourage youth assemblies”
- “Have former gang members talk to kids in school”
- “Take felonies away after a certain amount of time/progress”
- “Have probation officers on board to help bring more resources to re-entry men and women”
- “Higher paying jobs so drug sellers can’t make more selling drugs”
- “Leaders speak out about how gangs can change their lives”