"This is not just a news story this is real life... it is my life."

Zyonnah

"In the youth community we can stop violence by using words and talking about things before taking it to another level."

Amari

"Nothing can explain the pain you feel, waking up seeing that your close friend or family has died due to a horrible act of violence."

Sieade

"More than one person needs to do something to stop youth violence."

Neftali

"Violence can change anyone['s] life in a second."

Oree'ona

"Teens can benefit from using the arts, including painting or music, as a way to counteract the effects of violent acts."

Isyah

"So here's the deal here's how we're gonna fix it, love is the glue that we all have been missing."

Ambriah
"The only way to survive is to strive for greatness."

Kendall

"Looking both ways isn't even just for the traffic light, now I look both ways just out of fright."

Chidiire

"We do not have to go out shooting and stabbing or even beating others because we [cannot] control our feelings."

Deyonna

"We can prevent school violence in many ways. Some ways are to make students feel safe to talk to staff, to address the risk of violence, and parenting skills."

Tiaret

"When someone dies they stop sharing emotions, they become entirely cried out."

Jorden

"You can’t stop thinking about if the bullet really was for you."

Maurice

"I believe that my responsibility is to stay away from all the violence and guns and I think that people should do the same."

Asia
"Building more community centers and recreation centers can build a bond around the community and keep kids safe."

Aniya

"Young kids are looking and searching for a better way. Hopefully they will be able to find it."

Daniel

"It is bad for young people because if a young child sees violence occur they act out in violence. So when they go to school and have disputes with a person, they would use violence because they don't know or have the skills to talk things through. Then the chain reaction starts over again."

Nasir

"Gun violence is something I plan on trying to put an end to."

Jazzi

"This is my story and I hope it makes a change."

Ramyah

"Tomorrow is not always promised for most of us youth in this society today, so it’s best we act on the problem now before it’s too late."

Imani

"We as a district need to do better and stop the gun & gang violence."

Danae