

Cooper Lyons

Period 4

November 19, 2018

Writing Contest

I personally know many people in my high school community that drink. They either drink at parties or in small groups at the most chill parent's house. I do not drink. It seems that in my friend group, I am one of the few people that do not drink. In senior year I have lost connection with many of my friends because of their involvement in drugs. As my friends and I started to drift apart I would not get invited to my friends house with the usual group because they were planning on drinking and doing drugs. They know that I do not participate so they choose not to invite me. This is a win lose situation for me. I am losing my friends during my last year of high school and that can be very sad and has made me have to find a new group of friends that do not drink. This is also a good thing. I am not participating in any drug abuse and instead of getting peer pressured into "pulling up" or "coming out" to the party like I used to be, I just do not get any invites. Now there is no possible way for me to be around drugs. However, I am scared for my old friends because I know that if I was there, sober, I would be able to make sure that they get to wherever they are going safely. Nothing bad has happened to any of them yet, but I feel as the year goes on and as the parties get bigger, there will be an accident.

I have thought for a long time on how I could personally reach out to them and tell them to be safe and if they need a ride or anything that they should call me. Not drinking and doing drugs has had an opposite effect then most would think. I should have less respect for my friends because of their bad choices when there are plenty of safer options, but they have lost respect for me because I am not being "one of the guys" and not being with the group to go drink. When I

ask them to call me if they need anything they always respond with a sarcastic answer. Trying to help people who do not respect you as the same person can be very hard and frustrating to deal with. I want to be able to help my friends because I am afraid that just one time something isn't going to go right. All it takes is one time for one of my best friends lives to be changed forever all because of one wrong choice.

I have seen all the sad videos that they show during Drivers Ed about drunk driving and how one accident can lead to serious injury and even death. I also know that all of my friends that drink and do drugs have seen these videos too and see how one accident affects the rest of your life whether that is with an injury or death. I do not know how my friends have this information and still choose to do drugs, but to also put the trust their lives of in either themselves or an intoxicated friend to drive them home safely. I know that I would rather get a wake up call at three in the morning asking for a ride rather than a call in the morning saying that my friend had passed away. I want my friends to know how their actions and choices affect me and the people who care about them because even though I have drifted away from many friendships, losing even one of them would be one of the worst feelings in the world especially if drugs were involved.