

Grade 12

Wheeling Park High School

Coleman M

As a freshman, I chose to join Drug Free Clubs of America because I knew it would be good to include on my high school resume in preparation for college. In addition, I had already made the decision I would be drug free and by joining the club, I would need to live up to my decision. Fast forward four years, I have continued to remain drug free since that decision my freshman year. Now that I am wrapping up my senior year, Drug Free Clubs looks a little different to me since that freshman year. I have witnessed the constant threat, temptation, and pressure placed upon myself and my peers to give into the social pressures of trying drugs in order to "fit in" with certain groups of people. I have experienced times of being left out because I have chosen to uphold my commitment to Drug Free Clubs of America.

This past year, I was placed in the role of being captain of my soccer team. I felt it was my job to not only lead my team on the field, but also off the field in the decisions my teammates would make. As a senior I was familiar with the social pressures they would be facing. I encouraged my teammates to become members of Drug Free Clubs of America so they too could have the accountability the club provides. I feel confident in saying, my team carried a reputation of being an upstanding group of players who were free of drugs.

Deciding to maintain a commitment to Drug Free Clubs has proven to be positive on my college applications and with college coaches. I will be playing college soccer in the fall and the coaches are glad to know that I am a part of the Drug Free Club. They are able to tell I value my health and am dedicated to achieving my goals. Having a drug free clear mind has enabled me to excel in classroom and on the soccer field and I am confident I have the foundation I need to continue my commitment at the next level.

People may think remaining drug free is not a big deal. But to people like me, it is a big deal. Drug Free Clubs of America has impacted me from my freshman to senior year by providing me a standard to live up to and commitment to withhold. I did not realize when I signed up as a freshman of the pressures I would face between then and my senior year. I have encouraged my freshman sister to join the club as well as I know what an impact it can have on her. I am thankful to Drug Free Clubs of America for the opportunity to be a member of the club and the impact it has made on me. I am confident I will continue to uphold the standards of the Club into my next chapter at college.