

Haylee
Grade: 12
Paint Valley High School

Drug Free Clubs of America

Hello, my name is Haylee . I am currently a senior at Paint Valley High School. When I moved to Paint Valley in elementary school, I came from an inner city school in Columbus Ohio. Being in a city school exposed me to a large diversity of children, most of which had older siblings that used drugs or drank alcohol regularly. I befriended a girl whose father relied heavily on opioids and alcohol. My mother told me I was not allowed to go to her house, because she knew of how he misused these substances, and I was so heartbroken and confused.

My mother decided to move me to a rural country school, Paint Valley, where she thought substance abuse may not be as common. I made friends relatively slow, but eventually met some girls. They did not seem to have the same story as my friends from my other school; they described their parents the way I thought of mine, and no opioids or alcohol came up in any conversation.

When I got into high school, I discovered that one of my friends was smoking marijuana and drinking profusely. I did not want to unfriend someone who I had been close to for four years. At the beginning of my freshman year, I learned about Drug Free Clubs of America. I thought this may be the perfect way to help my friend see that what he was doing was wrong. I talked him into joining, along with a few other friends, and explained that he would have to quit drinking and doing drugs. He was very hesitant about joining because he had become so used to his bad habits; however, he agreed to try to stop. He was successful.

Throughout high school I have been offered to try multiple kinds of non-prescription drugs, marijuana, and alcohol. Being in the Drug Free Club has given me an excuse every single time to turn down these drugs. I never thought of trying them in the first place, but peer pressure is a big part of people buckling in these situations. Whenever a person would ask me if I would like to try any sort of drug or alcohol, I would simply tell them that I was in the Drug Free Club and we had random drug tests. They normally would not ask any questions, or try to push any further, after that.

Being in the Drug Free Club helped me change a friend's life for the better. I love this club, it can really get you out of some sticky situations. I have been a member for four years; thus allowing me to become an Ambassador. I have been able to speak to people about why they should join, and how beneficial the club is.

Thank you for taking the time to read my essay!