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12th Grade

The Drug Free Clubs of America has had such a positive impact on me. The way I view DFCA now as a senior and the way I viewed it as a freshman are two totally different perspectives. Although I initially joined DFCA to fit in with those around me, I now join because I want to with my own free will. I really feel that it helped me make good decisions that have greatly paid off for me and kept me safe.

I first joined DFCA at the start of my freshman year. I wasn't really sure what it was about other than knowing that it was an anti-drug club. My friends all joined and since I wanted to be like them, I signed up, too. I was surprised that we received membership cards that would give us discounts at school sporting events and other locations. I was also surprised that we would be taken out of class to be drug tested. My friends and I always hoped that we would be drug tested on days we had a math test! To make things even better, we missed class to attend colossal anti-drug rallies with our neighboring schools. My first rally took place in Chillicothe, Ohio. The police station had blocked off the roads for us; we marched as a massive wave all with the idea of being drug free individuals. There was loud music, delicious food and great people. I wished that the drug free rally and the drug free friendships would last forever! At the end of my freshmen year, I had developed an attachment for DFCA.

Unfortunately, I came to realize that these happy times would not last forever. My sophomore year was filled with sadness, loneliness and conflict. Almost all of my friends decided not to join DFCA for another year of fun. To make matters worse, those friends all decided to start smoking various substances. I knew that I did not want to partake in these activities with them because I valued my health and I wanted my future to be safe. However, the result of me keeping myself healthy physically was for myself to be hurt socially. All of my friends quit hanging out with me and I grew more and more isolated from them. I became very lonely. I just wanted to go back to the rally with my friends. I just wanted to laugh, listen to music and eat hot dogs and cookies with them again. I originally joined DFCA to increase my social circle, whereas now I was joining DFCA because it was one of my few remaining social circles.

I became a DFCA Ambassador both my junior and senior years of high school. Although I had been lonely without my previous friends, I knew how important it was to remain drug free for my physical health and for my future. Being an Ambassador reinforced the importance of being drug free to me. It allowed me to learn more about how negative drugs are. It also allowed me to plan fun activities for the other DFCA members at my school. It makes me happy that I can bring so much excitement and recreation to the other members of the DFCA at my school. I love that recreation in DFCA is not only enjoyable, but also efficient in reinforcing the drug free purposes of DFCA. When I first joined DFCA as a freshmen, I viewed it as a club to expand my social circle and another way to have fun in high school. When I joined DFCA as a sophomore, I viewed it as my only social circle and a way to help me not be lonely. When I joined DFCA as a junior and senior, I viewed it as a way to keep myself and others drug free. I am very passionate about DFCA and am so happy I chose to join!