

My name is Jordan R [REDACTED]. I am a junior at Buckeye Hills Career Center in the Diversified Health program. I joined the DFCA in September of 2022 as a first-year member. I joined the club because I wanted to become a part of a community within my school that would allow me to experience fun things with my peers while also receiving great employment opportunities because of my involvement in the club. The club has affected my life in a very good way.

The Drug Free Clubs of America has changed me in such a good way. I have made so many new great friendships with other members of the club. My parents are very proud of me for making the pledge to stay away from drugs. I'm also extremely proud of myself for taking this step to better myself and my life both at home and at school. I have gained a lot of confidence and self-esteem by being in the club and knowing that I am a part of such a good thing in my community. I also think that myself and anyone else in the club are great role models to the young kids in our community. If these young kids see so many teenagers who they look up to joining this club and seeing what a good thing it is doing for people, they will want to join too and the club will only keep growing.

I think another great thing about the club that has also made me a lot happier is the perks and fun things we get to do. Our school takes us on many fun trips and gives us great rewards for being drug free. This makes me feel so much happier to be a part of the club and it makes me a lot more excited to go to school on these days because I know it will be a great day. It also provides a great environment for my friends and I that are in the club to spend time with each other and have fun together. I have made so many great memories and friendships because of this club and I am so glad I joined. At my home school, we don't have a drug free club. After joining the club at Buckeye Hills, I think every school should have their own chapter and get students involved in something that is great and will make them feel good about themselves.

Before I joined the club, I always felt like I didn't fit in with my peers because I didn't drink or smoke, because it was always labeled as the "cool" thing to do. After joining the chapter at my school, I feel like I fit in now more than I ever have. I'm now realizing that those things are not "cool" or that I shouldn't feel badly about myself because I don't do those things. This club has opened my eyes and shown me how many people feel the same way I do about that sort of thing. There are plenty of people my age who aren't interested in that stuff and I fit in just fine with them. The club has also shown me that I don't have to conform to fit in. There is always a community that will accept you for who you are, which is exactly what the club did for me.

To summarize my thoughts, I want to say that the Drug Free Clubs of America has truly changed me and my life for the better. I have gained so many good things from this club. I have gained friends, memories, self esteem, respect for myself and for others, and most importantly the knowledge that I don't need to change myself to fit in with others. I would recommend to anyone that they should also join the club to gain these valuable things and connections in their lives. It would also be a good first step just starting out in middle school or high school when you are going to be meeting a whole new crowd of people who may try to steer you in the wrong path. All in all, the club has changed my life and I could not be more thankful for my chapter.