

Tyra A [REDACTED], Auburn Career Center, Twelfth Grade

People use drugs for many different situations. Some do it because they want to relieve emotional pain, some do it to relieve health problems, and some do it just to fit in and have fun. My generation specifically has become very dependent on drugs; mainly marijuana. They try to run from the world's problems and family problems by getting high. In the long run the smoking and constantly getting high catches up and causes lung problems which can lead to a very early death. Many kids don't have the best role model either because many of their parents are enabling it or they disobey what their parents tell them and do what they think is best.

The main decision that I choose to live by in my daily life is to abstain from using any types of drugs. I lost my grandmother to drug abuse and it was hard for me. I lost her when I was eight years old and I was really close to her. Losing her hurt me and I didn't really understand why she died and left me so soon. Once I was old enough to understand and comprehend that she had died because of drugs, I never wanted to touch or have anything to do with drugs. I wanted to stay clean of drugs and live a life abstaining from drugs. It is not hard for kids to become addicted to drugs and many people become addicted after one use. Knowing that could happen to me, I wanted to be different. I did not want people to know me as someone who uses drugs to cope with everyday life problems. I wanted to be seen as a better individual as most. I didn't want the usage of drugs being the reason that people who care about me lose me.

I keep my head up high knowing that I can brag about not using drugs and not be embarrassed to say that I am drug free. Nobody can make me feel ashamed about deciding to not use drugs, especially knowing people in my family have abused drugs, and it allows me to be my own person. This is why the Drug Free Club of America feels like an accomplishment. Everything about not using drugs feels like a huge accomplishment for my age, especially with our societal pressures, stress, and standards. The way our society tries to push the idea and normalize drugs is not okay. It feels great to be drug free and I know that I can make a difference with my friends and help them know that you don't need drugs to cope with problems and stress that we're faced with, especially at this young age. Clubs like the Drug Free Club of America and having a good support system, family or friends will help you get through a lot of tough situations without using drugs. I don't want anyone to ever feel judged for using drugs, but if showing them that not using drugs isn't the end of the world then I would do it as many times as it's needed to live a longer life and not leave loved ones behind.