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How I View the Drug Free Clubs of America Differently

When I first entered high school, the Drug Free Clubs of America was advertised to me by our coordinator during lunch. I heard some of the upperclassmen talking about how they were a part of it the previous year and how much they like it. They detailed all of the perks of joining the club and how it was fun to be a part of it to skip some school. As a freshman, eager to fit in, I decided that I, too, would join the club. After taking my required drug test and passing, I was in the club! I felt so awesome knowing that I was a part of something and I could get out of class too.

When there were any rallies for the club and the community, I would attend. I had a lot of fun hanging out with my friends from my school and meeting new people from other schools. It felt really nice to be a part of something that could make a difference while also advocating for something important. During my first year in the club, I viewed it as something fun and a way to get out of class. Now, as a junior, I see the club as something more than just a school club.

When I joined the club again for my third year, I knew that it would be different. I passed my test and I was officially a third year member. After a month or two of school starting, the MADE rally was coming up. I had gone to the rally the two previous years, and I had a lot of fun. I remember standing in the crowd of people, listening to each school talk about their club. During that rally, instead of being in the crowd, I was the one speaking.

I stepped up onto the small stage and looked out to see the hundreds of students. I felt nervous but soon inspired and strong. As my group began to talk, we noticed that the crowd listened and looked interested in our story. Our story was about someone at our school who had been affected by her alcoholic father. It was an inspiring story and it taught a great lesson about how they used their experiences to change their own life. As I spoke my part about being the change in this world, I felt so amazing. I felt as if I was helping people to know that they aren't alone in having a family with addiction problems. As I reminisce on the moment, I hope that me and my group were a source of inspiration for those listening. My words, though only a few sentences, felt as if they left an impact.

After that speech, something in me changed, and my view on the club changed completely. What I once thought was just a fun club that would get me some time out of school and fun memories, turned into something way more impactful to me. As a child of someone who dealt with addiction, I realized that I want to be the change in my family and be an advocate for drug free teens. This club is more than just a club, it brings people together in the best way possible. It is more than just getting to leave school and have fun, it is about making a lasting impact and changing our school and inspiring others to get drug free. As I have become more educated on the effects of drugs on us as people, our families, and societies, it has made me fall in love with this club. It is such a great thing to help our youth to become the best versions of themselves, and it sure has made me my best version.