



Student Writing Contest: “A More Perfect Union”

Student: Shamecqua Moore

Institution: Farmingdale State College (N.Y.)

Award: Second Place Winner

Nobody’s Game: Gun Violence While Politicians Play the Blame Game

A sobbing woman is hugged by participants at a forum on gun violence event held on Capitol Hill. Gun violence is the leading topic that is sweeping across America these days, according to *The New York Times* on Sep 10, 2019: “Democrats and Republicans accused one another of playing politics with a life-or-death issue, dimming hopes for a quick compromise to address the wave of mass shootings that have terrorized the country.”

The visual of the story compelled me to become more involved in this political matter. In response, I began to gathering resources to sponsor a campaign on preventing and reducing gun violence, educate myself on gun violence statistics, and consider taking part in a gun violence movement. To be civically and politically informed and engaged into the public affairs of our country, society must first gain insight on political issues.

The recent gathering of an anti-gun rally turned negative, culminating in a blame game between Democrats and Republicans. The event was aimed towards bringing a positive change by raising awareness, giving hope to its victims, and addressing the issue on gun violence. The verbal insults and accusations from both Democrats and Republicans have underwhelmed society with hopes for a solution, yet has overwhelmed society with despair, skepticism, and distrust.

The verbal battle between the representatives is due to a lack of balance and tainted communication because their views on gun control are different. While the Republican party is more open to the carrying of concealed guns, democrats push for tighter gun control. Nevertheless, this political bickering is intolerable and must inspire U.S citizens to be more attentive to public affairs; and think more deeply about our democracy since a democracy divided cannot stand. Somewhere between the contentions, sits the truth between both parties: that is the relentless issue on gun violence! The issue on this matter continues to increase, rather than decrease. According to *USA Today* on August 4, 2019, “the statistics on mass shootings in 2019 are very bleak.” In 261 days, here have been 251 mass shootings in the US.

Why is it so complicated for the two parties to work together and find common ground when there is so much evidence, both visual and data? Could it be that their logic got lost in the mist of the verbal disagreements, causing the truth to be neglected? No place has been untouched by gun violence. The facts on gun violence are solid findings which cause for reasonable common grounds on gun proposals. Both Democrats and Republicans should be held responsible for not coming up with a viable solution.

Although reaching a solution is a complex issue, it must start from somewhere; and begins with politicians to produce balance and the pave way for a strong democracy. The common ground between the two parties is to serve the people as politician leaders, which is the one thing they have in common. They need to present themselves in a reliable professional manner; that is pleasing and convincing to the public to re-gain their trust.

Not least, society needs to be involved in political matters by becoming educated; and then put their beliefs into action by attending city council meetings, voting, and encourage others

to vote, which are all milestones towards working on preventing and reducing the issue on gun violence that terrorizes our country.