

DANIELLE CARON ... AGE 16 ... GRADE 10

2019 / 2020 Contest

“In what way is unacceptable mass violence tied to our society’s accepted violence (such as abortion), and what can I do to help reduce violence in our society”

I think that unacceptable mass violence is such a big problem in our society because of all the many ways violence is very much accepted.

Violence is accepted even in kids at a very, very young age. A mother might wonder why her teenage son shot up a whole room of classmates at school, but what she doesn’t think about is when he was eight she would give him a tablet in the back of the car to play games on. While he is sitting in the backseat playing shoot ‘em up run ‘em over games it is making it very clear to the kid that violence is acceptable and approved by society. A few years ago I saw a young child playing a game on an iPad that disturbed me then, and still does. The game was that you drive around in this huge monster truck and try to run over and kill as many people as you can. And we wonder why there is a lot of unacceptable mass violence in our country. To kids playing these games, mass violence must be alright. They made a game out of it for goodness sake.

There are many examples of unaccepted mass violence like gangs, active shooters and so forth; but there are also a lot of examples of acceptable violence like abortion, violent video games, and in movies and TV. I saw a shirt one time that said “Abortion: would it bother us more if they used guns” Everyone is so worked up about guns and gun violence, and yet it’s alright to kill a baby with a beating heart and fingers and toes. I just can’t understand why people say “It’s not a baby” when the Princess of England or a popular singer finds out she is pregnant and it’s a big thing to celebrate! It’s all over magazines, everyone wants to know if it’s a boy or girl, what she is going to name it, and so forth. It’s a baby and everyone knows it.

I think ways that I can help to reduce violence in our society would be to try to spread awareness and try to help end mass violence like abortion. I can do things like go with my family and other groups to sidewalk counsel at abortion clinics. When I am old enough I can vote for leaders that will make good laws and will help end a lot of bad mass violence. If I have kids, I can teach them about unacceptable mass violence and acceptable violence in our society so they can be aware and help reduce violence as well. I can also be praying about the violence issues in our society.