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Are we turning to violence to get respect? Many teenagers carry guns and many other weapons because they feel safer against their peers. Why do teenagers feel the need to turn to violence to get their point across and to get even with an enemy?

On June 20th, up and coming rapper Lil Snupe was shot to death. Lil Snupe, whose real name is Addarren Ross, was 18 years old and recently signed to Meek Mill's record label. Reports say that an argument broke out over a video game and Lil Snupe was shot twice in the chest.

This is only one example of a teen that has died due to violence. It happens every day. Violence does not just include guns, but bullying, physical fights, sexual assault, etc. Teen violence in the community is no way to get respected. As angry as someone may have made you, there is no reason to act violently against another teenager and there is definitely not a reason to take the life of another person at such a young age.

Is there really anything good in the streets for teenagers? No! We see violence on television, in music, and at our homes but that does not mean we should do what we see. Many teens are influenced by friends which causes them to act out in a violent way. Drugs and alcohol also play a vital role in the violent acts that teens commit each and every day.

As teenagers and young adults, there is more to life than trying to get respect from our peers by doing violent crimes. In the long run, what will the peers do that will help you to become successful in life? We should not have to go out and get even with someone by acting violently to prove a point to others in the community. We should set examples so that the ones that come

## The Weekly Address w/ Ryan George - Teen Violence- We Must Do Better

Written by Ryan George Forward Times Intern  
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after us will have a person to look up to instead of seeing us doing what is wrong. Being in the streets and being violent will lead us to two places, jail or the grave.

I'm just sayin'...