

College Essay

We all have a change we want to see occur. However it may not always be the easiest.

On March 14th I took a stand in the National Walk Out and Saturday March 24th I participated (along with other classmates) in the March for Our Lives rally in Washington DC. In fact, this was my first time actually doing something like this. It was amazing being around people my age who all share the same belief regarding gun control. I came to a belief and realization that we as a collective group of young people have so much power to make a change. I've always been so bothered by such things that go on around me yet I never felt as if my opinion would even make a difference. I'd constantly let my doubts overrule what I truly believe in. This opportunity allowed me to view otherwise. So yes, marching there that day made me feel as if my voice actually mattered.

This experience was a change for me. It burdened me to know that it had to take this horrible incident in order to penetrate the public's attention. I personally believe that this rally was a new and better approach that aims for a culture that is, or will become anti-guns. By me being present at this rally, not only did it show determination in demanding immediate action on gun control laws, but also showed unity among different cultures, race and so forth. It was a prime experience of how much easier it is to make progress when you emphasize inclusivity.

Most importantly, this march allowed me to once step out of my comfort zone and to understand that even for a person of my age, I cannot ignore the issues of gun control. I remember that strong feeling I had while screaming "Hey hey, ho ho, the NRA has got to go". The feeling was undeniable.

I was proud to be a part of such a strong movement. Although I've been passionate about gun control/violence before, the march empowered me to increase my activism. It's my job to stand up for what I simply believe and allow my voice to be heard, interventions to be proposed and actions to take place to ensure my safety and freedom. I was very inspired by the advocacy, I wanted to be a part of that.

From this experience I learned that although I'm still young, it's okay to take actions for my rights because I KNOW what's right and wrong and I KNOW that I'll soon be able to vote. Not only was I fighting for myself but also our future. It shaped me to be a stronger student and individual. I will not stop my advocacy, not only for gun control but for equivalent tragedies around the world, until a change is demanded. I now want to take further risks and actions in what I stand for.