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### Gun Violence in America

Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Abdullah Sarfraz and I want to address how important gun violence is and how it can be prevented in today's world. I specifically want my message to be heard by everyone, government officials, police officers, school safety experts. The reason why I want everyone to know about this social justice issue is because we hear about school shootings, mass shootings, homicide on the news or the radio every day. The first question that comes to your mind is how many casualties and deaths took place? Who is the killer? How did they obtain a firearm? and much more. A firearm ends up in a criminal's hand and that firearm is used to kill or end someone's life. It is horrifying because I have experienced the loss of a loved one due to gun violence. My friend was killed in his uber car by a criminal who had a weapon. He was shot only once in the head and died within seconds. Imagine you had to experience something like this, it is very tragic and horrifying because you don't know how to react, how to cope and how to forget. "Thoughts and prayers won't stop a speeding bullet" are the words of DaShanne Stokes. In other words, just one trigger on a firearm and that speeding bullet takes seconds to kill or harm someone. When that happens the thoughts and prayers are all useless because firearms result in loss of life. On an average at least 10 people get hurt or die from gun violence every day in the United States. We need to put an end to gun violence because it is a

leading cause of death for every individual living in the United States. It is very important that we put a stop to gun violence and create a safe environment for every individual living in this country.

There are many ways to prevent gun violence in the United States. We need to create strict laws such as Universal Background Checks for anyone who wants to own a firearm. Moreover, create strict rules on the use of firearms for instance firearms can only be used for special reasons like protection. Another way to make gun violence preventable is by creating smart guns that only work on special passcodes or face ID's. We are in the 21 century and technology is very advanced, therefore we should make our firearms more advanced and less harmful for the public. Moreover, for those that have been harmed with gun violence should be given extra assistance, for instance anyone who has faced any kind of gun shooting, has witnessed gun shooting or has lost a loved one to gun shooting should be provided with coping methods. Lastly, we need more security and protection in public areas and special neighborhoods and cities that need help. Afterall, we need a friendly, safe environment for everyone to live in because everyone deserves to live. I ask everyone to stand hand in hand with each other and stop gun violence from killing innocent people. I want everyone to work on this social justice matter to eliminate gun violence and stop future killings from taking place.