

Omari Fuller
4/25/22
English 1275
New York City Tech

Gun Violence Speech

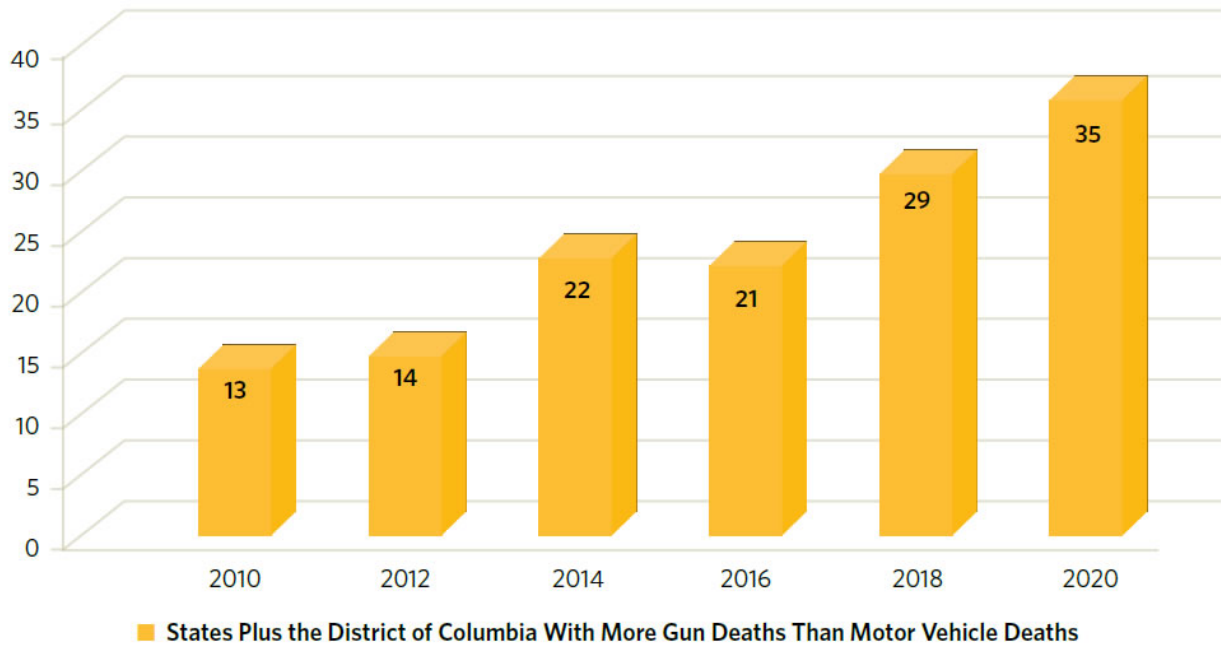
Good evening Teenagers and Young Adults of New York

As you all may see gun violence is a serious issue and it's been on the rise in the last decade. Time and time again we see how our loved ones falling victim to such weapons and it's time to make a change. How long shall we wait until one of our closest relatives gets taken away from us? How long shall we have to live in fear that someone in our vicinity may have a weapon? The time is now to revolt. While the NYPD has in fact been more active in train stations to make sure nothing is going on but that's not enough. It's a mere stepping stone to a better future. The first step we as a community must do is to limit the number of guns being given to these civilians. You can purchase a gun at Walmart. According to fatherly.com "Walmart sells firearms and ammunition in about half of its 4,700 U.S locations, particularly in areas where hunting is popular". Why are these weapons which have caused genocide, tragedies, and trauma available at multinational retail cooperation where they can be accessed by everyone? Now you may also ask yourself surely there are requirements to purchase a gun? While you are not wrong these requirements aren't enough to stop multiple people from purchasing one. According to americanprogress.org "as long as a person is at least 21 years old and is not prohibited from possessing a gun because of one of the nine enumerated reasons listed in the federal code, they can purchase a handgun from a licensed gun dealer." Looking at these requirements these are

pretty easy to abide by. Compared to purchasing a car it's almost laughable how getting a driver's license needs more requirements than owning a gun. To get a driver's license alone you need to study for the written test, take a practice test, gather your documents, apply for the learner permit at the DMV, take the written permit test, complete the five-hour pre-licensing course, practice driving under supervision, and finally schedule your road test. Why is it we take more precautions when giving someone a license to drive a car but were so lax on purchasing a firearm? Admittedly there are many people are on the road so it makes sense as to why these rules are in place at the same time. A firearm only has one purpose to kill no matter what the owner plans on using it for. In fact on ypc.org "gun deaths outpaced motor vehicle deaths in 34 states and the District of Columbia in 2020, the most recent year for which data is available. That year, gun deaths (including gun suicide, homicide, and fatal unintentional shootings) outpaced motor vehicle deaths (both occupant and pedestrian) in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming." The graph below shows the gun deaths over the years. As you can see as the years go by more gun deaths happen compared to

motor vehicles.

STATES PLUS THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WITH MORE GUN DEATHS THAN MOTOR VEHICLE DEATHS



So this begs the question if guns are more of an issue and cause more deaths compared to motor vehicles then why don't we have stricter gun laws? Many people don't think it's the guns that are the problem but rather the people themselves. In 2018 a shooting occurred in Parkland Florida to which Donald Trump and other Republicans have said efforts to prevent future mass shootings should focus on mental health and a new ABC News/Washington Post poll found that 77 percent of Americans say better mental-health monitoring and treatment could have prevented the shooting in Parkland. Many people don't see eye to eye on some gun laws so changing them could prove to be problematic which is why there aren't many changes to them. Despite this a change should happen because your loved one can potentially be the top story on your local news network.