Dear America, will I grow up?

Edited by: Ivy Huang

A teen's political take on current school shooting and prevention.



A picture of a typical American school shooting drill.

When I was in third grade, I was told to hide in my classroom, and that we were having a lockdown drill. I was only eight or nine years old, but I remember it clearly.

I remember the school hired someone to slam themselves into each classroom's door, and carry around a huge fake gun, while rattling door handles. I remember the looks in the younger kid's eyes who didn't quite understand what was happening.

I remember the cough one first grader let out, and the angry look a teacher gave him while saying;

"That cough could've killed us all."

For some, these drills no longer become drills, they become real life.

I remember a regular day in fifth grade when I was simply looking on my computer, when I saw a devastating headline;



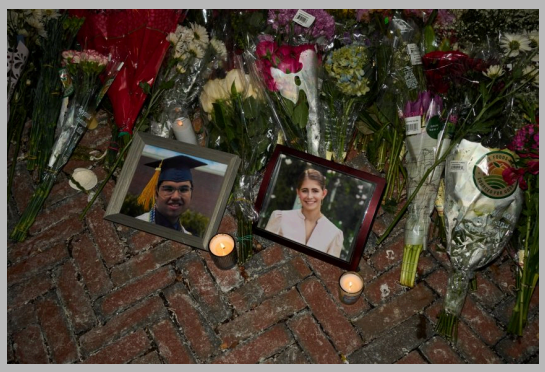
"Uvalde Tragedy, 21 killed."

Picture of the victims, aged 9-48.

All the kids in that classroom were ***my age.*** All with dreams and hopes in life.

If you think that was the last time I'd see a headline like that, you'd be wrong. ***Although it should've been.***

"At Least Two Dead and Seventeen Injured, in Minneapolis Catholic School Shooting"
"Erie High School Shooting, One Killed"
"Evergreen High School, Shooting an Hour from Columbine"
"Brown University School Shooting, Two Dead"

Students and victims of Columbine HS shooting, 1999, and Brown University shooting, 2025

Only in America have I seen and heard about such violence in a place supposed to be for *'Learning, for Community, for Peace'.*

Do I, and the millions of kids that go to school in America have to live in fear?
I ask you, please. No. I demand change! We do not deserve to die at the hands of a gun.

Here in the U.S there have been 1,453 school shootings since 1997.

You may think, "This will never affect me, I won't be one of millions"
You never know, never think until it happens to **YOU.**

I can personally vouch for this. My father in his lifetime has experienced TWO shootings, one of which was a Mass shooting.

I, in my lifetime have resided in an area where multiple shootings have taken place.

Don't wait until your child is gone, until you are gone.

Don't wait until something happens, *make sure* **nothing** happens.

So I close my article with this simple line;

Dear America, Will I grow up?

Sources:
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