



"We come to help"

# Welcome to Session 4 Zine

By: Stephanie S. and Azeya

The Zine is a collection of articles written by campers on the purple team. Each camper has written an advocacy article on a topic they believe is important. In addition, some campers have also created fun articles. The Zine is a way for campers to express their feeling and opinions about a certain topic of their choice. The campers also paired up and wrote articles about the other teams and what they do. We worked hard on this Zine, and we hope you enjoy it!



# Purple Team

By: Josh and Ashwin

Purple team is a team in SOS that does floor activities, the zine, and the movie. Floor activities are when members of the purple team go down to the museum floor and set up activities for the visitors. They get to interact with the kids and have fun. The activities include catapults, finger print art, and even more! Because the Purple Team is a part of the SOS (Summer of Service) Camp, the purple team gets to help out the museum and make it a more exciting place. The zine is a magaZINE that the purple team writes every session. The magazine is where members advocate for or against serious topics, and also a fun topic. Some topics that the purple team writes are: Terrorism, Pets, Political Issues and much more! The members also write about other teams. Other than the zine, the purple team produces, directs, and acts in their movie, which is hard to do. The first thing Purple Team does is makes the set. They use recycled cardboard to make buildings of the city, the cottage of the country, and pretty much the whole world in the movie. Then the purple has to make the scripts and record the actors. After that, the team goes out and interviews other teams of SOS. With the video, the team begins to edit the movie. They have to edit, do bloopers, synchronize the sound, and change the background for each scene! The purple team is a very hard-working team with lots to do!



# Green Team

By: Stephanie G. and Stephanie S. and Arnav

Green Team is an environmental cleanup/outreach team in SOS that conducts water quality tests, cleans up rivers, plants trees, roots out weeds, pulls out non-native plant species, and harvests locally grown produce. Some sites the Green Team visits are Don Edwards National Park, Ulistac, CDM Garden, Our City Forest, and many more. At certain locations such as Ulistac and Our City Forest the Green Team roots out weeds and non-native plant species to help the native plants and their ecosystem thrive.

By doing so, the members of the green team help the environment and the community. With their efforts, the Green Team enables the growth of native Californian plants of the area. Their efforts not only help the environment but also create new homes for the many animals that reside there. Not only do they help animals that reside on land, they also clean up rivers that leads to a safer environment for fishes.

Although it seems like hard work, the members of the green team say it's enjoyable and rewarding. In all the interviews, members claim that they enjoy helping the environment and that they feel content with their work. As many people said, "The work is rewarding and fun." Over the past 2 weeks the Green has in my eyes done the most back-breaking work to make the largest differences in their service sites. So hats off to green team and continue to make a difference.



# Red Team

By: Jason and Kai

Red team is a community outreach team. They help out multiple communities including Santa Maria Urban Ministry, Live Oak Senior Center, Health Trust, Resource Area for Teaching, cleaning up the river, the Salvation Army, Children's Discovery Museum, and Martin Luther King Jr. Library. Red team is led by David, Patrick, and Jackson.

Red team can help the community in many ways. For example, while at the Salvation Army, they package food for low income families. They make tons of food bags and store them to give out to people. While in Santa Maria Urban Ministry they help organize the food there into their areas. The food SMUM gets come from grocery markets. They check the food to make sure it's nice and fresh and then they make food bags to give out to people. Red team also goes to the Live Oak Senior Center to help seniors have a little fun. They hang out with them by doing some arts and crafts activities, and they dance. Then they also go to the Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT), and help package activities for teachers to use. Finally they also do river clean up by the Guadalupe River. They pick up tons of trash there; most of it is broken glass. Sometimes they find some unusual trash there; like carpets, car engines, shopping carts, etc. They spend the day with YCS another program helping the community. Red team goes to the YCS area and help them out with what needs to be done. YCS also comes here to help check how clean the river is, and to clean it.

Overall, red team is a great team to do. They help out multiple communities and it is a lot of fun. Most of the people I've talked to that have done red team have really enjoyed it. They told me it feels really good to be able to help out the community in many different ways. If you want to go to many different places and help out lots of communities then red team is a good fit for you.



# The Orange Team

By Chloe and Kylee

The Orange Team is a part of the Summer of Service program. They frequently visit Estrella Family Services, a school for children pre-K through fifth grades, they help watch the children to help the teachers. The Orange Team plays with the kids and gives them an enjoyable time, making sure they have a jovial summer! While some of the Orange Team plays on the playground with the younger kids, others stay indoors with the older children, making friendship bracelets, drawing with markers, playing games on electronics, foosball, and many other interesting activities. They even had a dance off! The children at Estrella possess wild imaginations: "...they decided it would be a great idea to get Katie married to Ethan, and then they got divorced, but then Ethan had a kid that... got turned into a gorilla," says Jasmine, one of our interviewees and a participant of the S.O.S. Orange Team. Not only do they visit children, they also go to Salvation Army, where they pack and sort food, school supplies, and backpacks for various needing people throughout the community. Clearly, the Orange Team tremendously benefits our community.



# STRIPED TEAM

By: Azeya and Matthew

Striped team is the leadership team at Summer of Service camp. They lead rev-up in the morning, host different activities on the museum floor for little kids at the Discovery museum, and sort food at Second Harvest Foodbank. They also pick up trash near the river and lead reflection in the afternoon. The Striped team does a lot, especially for Summer of Service. Striped Team leads rev-up in the morning and reflection in the afternoon. For rev-up in the morning they set up games in which the entire camp participates in, even some of the leaders. Some of the games they set up are: Oh no wher'd my chicken go, water jug baseball, monster soccer, and space invaders. Oh no wher'd my chicken go is basically capture the flag, but with a twist. Instead of a flag, you have to capture a chicken, and if you drop the chicken before you get back to your team, the chicken goes back to the other team. For reflection they lead different activities that help us better understand the world we live in. One activity we have done for reflection is charity simulations, where we had fake coins, and we passed around papers that had different charities on it. We could give a coin to the charities we wanted to donate to, then we shared with everyone why we choose the charities we choose. After we shared, we then learned where our money goes. We found out that not all charities are reliable. Striped Team goes to Second Harvest Foodbank to sort food for the less fortunate people that don't have the ability to get food like we do. The different types of food they sort are fruits and vegetables such as: peaches, nectarines, and apples. The food is sent out, and put on the tables of those who need it. The Striped Team sorts food for hours on end and never complains. If you'd like, join the Striped Team and help your community. The Striped Team also holds a craft fair. They plan the theme for the craft fair and set it up. It's held at the Children's Discovery Museum in the outside amphitheater. They plan this event for the kids, but adults are also welcome. There are different activities the kids can participate in. Some of the activities they do are finger painting, origami, etc. Everyone is welcome to come and join. There is no fee to get into the fair, so please come and join them. To join the Striped Team you must be at least entering your sophomore year of high school.



## Why You Shouldn't Swear

By: Josh

Swearing, or using profanity is a common practice between youths and adults. It is when you use profane (bad) language. It is used to express anger, joy, and other emotions. If it's so common, what is the problem with it?

There are a lot of reasons to swear. "What's So Bad about Swearing" lists a couple reasons: To express anger, to get attention, to fit in, or to appear tough. Also, people have excuses for swearing, they include: Parents do it, entertainment contains it, or that they are just words and it's not a big deal. The more you swear, it seems like less and less of a problem, but swearing is still a problem. It can hurt your reputation. Think about the friends you will gain, and the friends you will lose if you swear constantly. When you go to get a job, will the interviewer notice your explicit language? When you swear at someone, it could offend or hurt them without you realizing. This could make people view you as a bad person. Most bad words are intended to insult someone, so is this really what you want to be saying to people?

If you already swear, maybe consider using different words to explain the situation. While it is a useful tool to express how you feel quickly and effectively, if you use them in casual speech, what is the point of even swearing in the first place? It is meant to be a rare type of word to use in only the extremist circumstances, but when people say it regularly, what do they say when they're really are angry? If you notice people overusing swear words, kindly remind them that it affects who they are, and ask them if the words they are using are really necessary.

# Food Safety

By: Stephanie S.

Cans of food on the shelves are on sale. Little do consumers know, the food is expired or not packaged safely. Unsuspecting customers still consume the harmful food, not thinking much about it. In the middle of the night, you wake up with an upset stomach.

Food safety is the act of preparing food in ways to prevent foodborne illness. Many different processes are followed to avoid potentially fatal health problems. Food not packaged properly can negatively affect the people who consume it. As the Center for Disease Control and Prevention states, “Foodborne illness is a common, costly—yet preventable—public health problem. Each year, one in six Americans get sick from contaminated foods or beverages; 3000 die.” Foodborne illness is not only fatal and common, but most importantly, it can be prevented.

Foodborne illness is not an issue that receives a lot of attention even though it is a major issue. Many Americans are affected by contaminated food, yet not much action is taken to solve the problem. As the Center for Disease Control and Prevention states, “Reducing foodborne illness by 10% would keep five million Americans from getting sick each year.” If more attention was directed towards the food sold on shelves, many people would be safe from foodborne illness.

Not only would it take more attention from food producers, it would also require attention from the consumers. Many producers may already know that their products contain harmful ingredients, yet they take no action to fix it problem. If food producers refuse to take action, the only other way the problem could be solved is by consumers taking action. Consumers can not buy food that is contaminated and raise awareness to the problem. Food safety is a major issue that needs to be stopped.

## Competitive Pokèmon Training

by Jason

Do you want to be the very best? If your answer to that was yes, I have the information for you!

To have a competitive team in the 6th generation of Pokèmon, you will need to do many things. First, you have to plan on what Pokèmon you will be using on your team. It is best to have a team of diverse types. In addition, you should keep in mind the movepool of each Pokèmon, but we will go over this soon. You also need to keep track of the base stats of the Pokèmon. The base stats are the stats the Pokèmon has without any stat modifiers such as nature, abilities, EVs, and IVs.

After you plan out what Pokèmon you will be using, you will then plan out what moves the Pokèmon will learn. Each move will be in one of these categories: special attack, physical attack, and status. Special attacks are attacks that do damage based off of a Pokèmon's special attack stat, while physical attacks go off of the physical attack stat. Status moves are moves that can affect stats or the weather during the battle. While you do this, you should keep in mind a Pokèmon's stats, abilities, and hold item.

Once you have the moveset planned, you need to IV breed and EV train the Pokèmon. IV breeding is the step that takes the longest time as you have to repeat this for every Pokèmon. For this step, you will need to have a ditto that has perfect IVs in the stat(s) you want, a destiny knot, and a Pokèmon with fire body. To check the IVs of the ditto, you will need to talk to the ace trainer in the Kiloude City (XY) or the Battle Resort (ORAS) Pokèmon centers. Once you have the ditto, you will want to give it the destiny knot. Then, you put the ditto and one of your Pokèmon into the day care. You then remove all Pokèmon from your party and put the Pokèmon with flame body in front. You then hatch 5 eggs and check the IVs with the ace trainer I mentioned above. If it does not have perfect IVs, get more eggs and repeat. Do this again for every Pokèmon. Once you have the Pokèmon IV bred, you will have to EV train. The easiest way to do this in generation 6 is by using the super training function. Now that you have done these steps, you are on the road to be the champion champion!

# Bastoy Prison

By: Ashwin

Normally criminals that are caught go to prison behind bars. In a room isolated from the rest – well that’s what we think – prison life is quite nice!

Bastoy Prison is a holiday version of Alcatraz except in Norway on Bastoy Island. It is a low security prison, where guards aren’t armed; there are no fences or barbed wires to restrict prisoners. Bastoy Prison recreates normal life for the inmates. Everyone has a house which they own the key to; the house has a kitchen and a TV. They can wear jeans, and T-shirts. The guards don’t even have a uniform, so it’s hard to tell if a guard is a guard or a prisoner. The prisoners have jobs such as gardening, farming, cooking and they get paid for it, about \$10 a day. The prisoners even learn to code and use computers on the prison! Who would want to leave this prison?! It’s amazing!

Well, some people want to – it’s fairly easy to escape but many don’t. They fear that they will be caught and sent to a higher security prison. When the prisoners come to Bastoy, the governor gives them a little talk. He tells them if they escape, give a phone call and inform us you’re ok and we don’t have to send the coast guard after you. 97% of the prisoners come from a higher security prison, so they see the island as a relief.

Bastoy Prison is not a prison; it’s a village to help the prisoners achieve a second chance in the society and life.

# Terrorism

By: Jason

Many organizations are causing chaos in various countries to gain a cause, whether it is political, religious, or personal. Some examples of these organizations include ISIS, Al Qaeda, and Boko Haram. These groups can target certain countries to get their name out. This gains plenty of media attention, which is what the groups might want. As you can see, terrorism is currently a massive issue in the world.

Terrorism is a horrible thing that is happening in today's world. On top of that, the terrorists can destroy millions of dollars of property. On top of that terrorism can cause governments to do things that they do not want their citizens to know. Clearly, terrorism is causing a lot of mayhem that affect plenty of people.

Terrorists can cause tons of money on property damage. For example, the 9/11 attacks destroyed billions of dollars in property. According to iags.org, the destruction of the twin towers alone caused about \$3 billion to \$4.5 billion in property damage. There are also plenty of other buildings that were destroyed in the attacks, and they only add billions of more dollars to that cost. Obviously, terrorism can cause plenty of financial issues by destroying buildings.

Lastly, the government can cause governments to do some things that some citizens would disapprove of. One example of this is assassinations, or targeted killings. Some may think that these assassinations are not being done on US citizens, but sadly, they are. Anwar Al-Aulaqi, Samir Khan, and Abdulrahman Al-Aulaqi were all U.S citizens that were killed in a drone strike where only Anwar Al-Aulaqi was targeted. He was targeted because the government labeled him as a terrorist based on an unknown set of behaviors.

The everyday person can counteract terrorism in many ways. One way one can do something about terrorism is by being educated about what the terrorists are claiming to cause terror for. For example, when people learned that Al Qaeda was an Islamic organization, many people in the United States attacked Islamic citizens, but in reality Muslims are against violence. On top of that, you can get educated on the groups themselves. This can help because some organizations have ways of recruiting people from other countries.

## Rarest Diseases

By: Azeya

Truman show delusion- you believe you are part of an imaginary TV show.

Jargon aphasia- you start speaking in a made up language.

Lymphatic filariasis- in your legs and arms, your skin becomes thicker and you experience pain.

Cotard's delusion- you feel as if you're a zombie with missing limbs and etc.

Epidermodysplasia verruciformis- your skin looks like it's made of wood.

Fibro dysplasia ossificans progressive- mutation of body's reappear mechanism, causing fibrous tissue to regrow as bone when damaged.

Polydactylism- you have extra toes or fingers.

Argyria- too much exposure to chemical compounds of silver that turns your skin blue or purple.

Proteus syndrome- skin overgrowth and atypical bone development within the human body while tumors cover most of your body.

Hypertrichosis- hair grows all over your body that make you look like a werewolf.

Porphyria- you are allergic to the sun kind of like a vampire.

Leontiasis ossea- overgrowth of facial and cranial bones that hinders your ability to use your mouth and nose and lose your sight completely. You also have a face that looks like a lion's.

Progeria- your appearance is one of an old person, while you are still young.

Cronkhite-canada syndrome- you lose the ability to taste, you also grow intestinal polyps, experience hair loss and nail growth problems.

Parry-Romberg syndrome- half of your face begins to shrink.

Trimethyaminuria- you smell like fish that's a day old.

Rapunzel syndrome- you eat your hair which damages your digestive system.

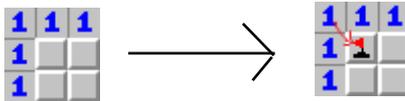
Laugh syncope- you laugh so hard that you pass out.

# How to play Minesweeper

By: Josh

Minesweeper is a well-known game, where you need to click on squares. Some squares are mines, and some aren't. Most people don't understand how to play it, but it really is well designed. Some people know that the numbers mean how many mines are nearby, but how can that help you win? If you left click, it clears a square, when you right click, it marks them, But how to you know what to mark? There are a couple easy ways to pinpoint a mine's location.

The easiest way to find a mine is to look for this pattern: a 1 on the outside of a corner.



That means the corner piece is a mine. Also the others can be cleared, so this turns into this



and even more can be cleared

This is pretty much how you play minesweeper, but there are a few more tricks.

For example:

The one here is already detecting the mine above it, so all three below are clear.



If a 3 is on a straight wall, all 3 on the wall have to be a mine since there are only 3 spots for mines to be in Also note the 2s above and below it.

If, for example, a 3 already has 3 mines around it, the other spaces must be clear.



Finally, when you see this what do you think?



If you think "Oh no!" you are wrong. Really, this means that you can just do this!



Great! Now you can probably play minesweeper. If it's still confusing, then minesweeper isn't the game for you.

# **Immigration in the United States**

## **By Chloe**

**Immigration deeply influences American society. First of all, legal immigrants are more prone to open up or bring a new business to the U.S. On the other hand, illegal immigrants contribute by paying Social Security payments and taxes. In addition, Americans learn to interact with people of different cultures, offering the rest of the world a positive impression on the U.S. Businesses are interested in people who can speak multiple languages in addition to English, and immigrants make that happen; immigrants boost America’s language diversity. Clearly, American society is tremendously influenced by immigrants.**

**Why does this matter? Currently, immigrants assume 12% of the U.S. population, or about thirty-seven million people. As the foreign born population increases, America’s business economy escalates as well. According to Anjana Sreedhar, “...it is these 12% who go to their home countries for vacation and tell their friends and families about what life is like in America. This two-way traveling allows people from other nations to develop their own opinions of America as a nation.”**



## Technology Addiction

By: Stephanie G.

Everyone is present at the dinner table, yet nobody says a word. Aside from a few beeps coming from texts, it is silent. The silence is suffocating, but no one seems to notice as they send an smiley face emoji to friend or like a post on Instagram.

Technology addiction is taking its toll on people all over the world, and its victims are ignorant of the quality time they are missing out on with their family and friend. Many people have a "compulsive need to use devices like smart phones, computers, or video games," (<http://www.healthline.com/health/addiction/gaming-and-technology#Overview1>) and it is causing people to forget what really matters in life. The Internet and its games are just as addicting as drugs, and in a way, far more deadly. It might seem at the time that watching the most recent episode of your favorite television series could be the most interesting thing to do at the time, but there really are so many more other things to do. How does a day at the beach with your family sound? Or a picnic with your best friends? It could be so much more fun than sitting on your couch in a dim and stuffy room watching television. But it's hard for some certain people to realize that. They can't stop checking their phones, and it takes a colossal effort just to ignore it for a few minutes.

The effects of technology addiction can be severe. "Sudden depression, loss of self-esteem, and problems paying attention" (<http://everydaylife.globalpost.com/technology-addiction-teens-11134.html>) are only a few out of the countless symptoms of Internet addiction. There are people who choose spending time on the Internet over time with their family. It's easy for them to spend hours at a time in front of a computer, even easier than spending time with their own loved ones. You may think that it doesn't matter whether people are spending too much time with their technology, but truthfully, this could easily affect YOU. Would you like for your entire family to be so absorbed in their texts that they don't even pay attention to your presence? I doubt it, but if you don't mind it could mean that you are addicted. Believe it or not, the new technology of the world can be even more harmful

than it is helpful, and it's time for people to realize that life is meant to be enjoyed with other people, and not with their phones. So whether you are more than happy to accept these awful alterations in your life just for a tiny man-made device or not, it is time to change things.

Start by cutting down your Internet use and associate more with your family. Ask them for help if it is hard to spend less time on your phone or computer or tell them what you plan to do. Spend more time outside. Plan trips to the beach or even start by a simple walk in your local park. If the rest of your family prefers their phones over your ideas, persuade them to stop spending so much time on the Internet. Help them overcome their addiction and work side-by-side in your effort to have fun the right way. Say no to the computer and yes to the sunshine and fresh air with pride! It is guaranteed that you will love this new way of life, and sooner or later you will realize that you have made the right choice by overcoming your technology addiction.

## Hackers

By: Ashwin

This century is the most advanced yet the weakest. Computers are amazing, but there are hackers out there. Not all hackers are black hat (bad) hackers; some are white hat (good) hackers. Black hat are the dangerous hackers that steal data from people, but white hat hackers find bugs and report it for the good of the software. But there are more black hat hackers than white hat hackers.

Black hat hackers have done some serious damage and continue to do so. Sony, a large company was hacked by North Korea because of its controversial movie. The U.S Government was hacked! Over 25 million identities and social numbers were released. Then there was a SECOND ATTACK which affected more than 19 million people that were clearing their account. The attack stole criminal, financial, health, employment and residency histories. Hackers can even manipulate military equipment. Now that tanks, warplanes, and rifles are synchronized to the military data base through Wi-Fi, hackers can launch missiles, destroy warplanes and tanks, and basically cause destruction and chaos through a computer. Hackers can hack medical equipment other than data hacking. Hackers can hack equipment that pumps medicine through IV into the body. Because of that, they can overdose, or stop the medicine. This will lead to a guaranteed death.

Now the question is: How do we prevent hackers? Well, we can't help other people unless we have some degree in code. But what we can do is save our own data.

### Step 1: Update your OS (Operating System)

Old Operating Systems have a lot of bugs and those bugs could lead to data loss. \*If your device is old, buy another one with the latest technology!

### Step 2: Install Firewalls

Even the new Operating System isn't completely hacker-proof, it's always better to have an extra firewall to prevent hackers coming close to your computer.

Step 3: Delete software data and history from an unknown identity

If you don't know an identity from software, don't install it or do anything with it!!!98% of the time unknown identities cause viruses and data loss.

Step 4: Save your data on a USB

Most computers get hacked by a hacker unless you have a lot of important data on it, which takes up space. An USB is 99% hacker proof and has a lot of space for data to be saved

Step 5: You're safe

Yup, you read right, you're hacker resistant!



# Police Brutality

By: Arnav

Imagine it is a hot summer day, no clouds, and great day to sunbathe and you are a white man lounging on a sun chair in a beautiful suburban area. All of a sudden, you hear bashing and screaming and you turn around to see a White police officer using excessive force to subdue a person of color, this is Police Brutality. What would you think? Would you think that you should record this and go help the man?

Police brutality is the use of excessive or unreasonable force to make an arrest. Not long ago, Police Brutality was an uncommonly mentioned topic in the news or within day to day conversation. Now, police brutality is a hot and debated topic that has been gaining ground in the media and the people. In fact, these days, the words “police brutality” are said together with the word racism. Should we be able rid or prevent police brutality, we would be able to prevent racial and political tension and the riots that go along with this injustice

The amount of race related police brutality in U.S.A. is just wrong. We are being torn apart from the inside out because this injustice is causing unrest and distrust between the people and their protectors, the police. If you think that this injustice is fair because the suspects that the police arrest have past charges or cases and that this act of brutal punishment without jury doesn't affect anyone because our police are always protectors of justice. Well think about this, over 10,000 cases of police brutality were reported in 2002-2004 alone and only 19 of these cases resulted with indictment. This proves that police have impunity, enabling them to continually choose to commit these injustices in front of others knowing that they can get out of trouble because 25% of police officers have seen another officer commit an act unnecessary force to make an arrest yet these acts of injustice have gone un-indicted. Police brutality doesn't necessarily only cost lives but costs money as well. In fact, \$347,000,000 was spent on cases against police on charges of Police Brutality.

Police Brutality doesn't just tear up the relationship between the police and the communities they are protecting; it tears up family roots and people's lives and creates racial tensions. It is found that 46 percent of blacks have “very little” confidence that police will treat blacks and whites equally. In contrast, 12 percent of whites feel that way and one example of this was

the case of Michael Brown in which witnesses saw that 18 year old Michael Brown was shot and killed by officer Darren Wilson even after he had his hands up and stated “Don’t shoot” but based on Darren Wilson’s own account on CNN he was attacked by Michael Brown which goes against what many of the witnesses saw and stated. After the jury decided not to indict Officer Darren Wilson of Manslaughter, national protests began to surface stretching from the sight of the killing in Ferguson, Missouri to New York causing growing dissent in Black and White Communities.

Now other people might say that police brutality is just a myth a lack of evidence on the topic because police have a hard job both mentally and physically that involves hard, split-second decisions when making arrests. It is also said that the people that police have to arrest are hardly innocent and I agree but I still say go back to the definition of police brutality, the use of unnecessary force and ask yourself why use such extreme force even when the suspects state they will come peacefully? Even should suspect try to run away police are equipped with non-lethal weapons to make an arrest in just that situation.

Now, to get rid of Police Brutality is not achievable by just one person. For example it wasn’t just Martin Luther King Jr. as one man that helped abolish segregation; it took his death and hundreds of thousands of people to change the mind of our government, so, we must set forth on his example and through nonviolent protest and petition we must change the mind of our democratic government.

If this goal is achieved with you, the people’s help, it will be listed in the history books as one of the greatest advancements in racial and political tension and we will be one again able to consider our country land of the free and equal. This will also allow us to lower the tension between communities and the police that protect them and once again return the U.S.A. to a place of peace and harmony and the economic and political effects of protests and riots will be averted.

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# A change for the better

by Kai

Not long ago people were scared just to admit who they were, and when people found out who they were they would constantly get bullied by other people. They would torture them, assault them, or hurt them any way possible. These people that constantly get tortured are from the LGBTQ community. They get attacked because these people have homophobia which is the fear of the LGBTQ people. LGBTQ stands for, lesbian, gays, bisexual, transgender, and questioning.

What are the reasons people attack the LGBTQ community? People attack them because some people have religious beliefs saying that marriages can only be done with a man and a woman. Some of these people that believe this, decided that they want to get rid of all people from the LGBTQ community. This is why tons of these people get attacked, and this keeps some people from expressing who they truly are. People from the LGBTQ community get scared of what people will do to them, or they get a bunch of hate message from fellow peers, online, and from other people. This causes them to feel so uncomfortable that some of them commit suicide. Here's proof, according to [bullyingstatistics.org](http://bullyingstatistics.org), "about one fourth of all students from elementary age through high school are the victims of bullying and harassment. About 30 percent of all completed suicides have been related to sexual identity crisis. In fact, about 9 out of 10 LGBTQ teens have been reported being bullied at school within the past year because of their sexual orientation." To stop this, schools need to be really strict about any type of discrimination made against anyone for whatever reason. This must stop so we can save others, and so they can express who they truly are.

Nowadays the LGBTQ community are able to be proud of who they are. Just recently, the Supreme Court ruled that gay marriage would be legal nationwide. This was a big deal because now nobody can stop people from finally being able to meet their true love, and possibly marry them. With this new law some people can hide from the shadows come out and admit who they truly are, knowing that now, more people have accepted LGBTQ people . If they find someone they love they will have the right to marry them. Plus in 22 states they have

laws banning discrimination based on sexual orientation according to peweresearch.org. This is a big step forward and hopefully soon they will make this a law nationwide. I was in San Francisco one day when there was a gay pride rally and a lot of people attended it. This proves how much people have changed, and now support gay marriage.

There are still some issues that must be addressed before people who identify as LGBTQ will be able to truly feel comfortable in the U.S. One of these issues is, some people won't sell their product to LGBTQ people because of their religious beliefs. Here's what I think, get over it people have the right to love whoever they want, and it's not like everyone in the U.S. are going to follow some people's religious beliefs. I want you to think about this, how you would feel if you weren't allowed to marry your love because of some stupid law that says you're not allowed to marry someone that's the same gender as you. You would be pissed off, and that's exactly how some of LGBTQs feel like, so now I hope you realize how the LGBTQ community felt a while back. Everyone is created equal right, therefore LGBTQs deserve to have the same rights as us.

America has really changed about their viewpoint of people who identified as LGBTQs now compared to five to ten years ago. Some LGBTQ people back then were scared of what would happen if other people found out who they were really are. They were constantly being attacked by other people because of who they were. Gay marriage wasn't legal in most states in the U.S. Now compared to today, more people are accepting towards LGBTQ community, less attacks are against LGBTQ people, and gay marriage is legal nationwide. There is still a lot of work that needs to be done so LGBTQs have the same rights as everyone in the U.S. I believe that one day everyone will accept LGBTQ community and that they will have the same rights as everyone else has.

**MARRIAGE  
IS ABOUT  
LOVE  
NOT GENDER**



**Thank You For Joining SOS**