

Terrell (Tae) Brown
Delegate Essay
Juvenile Delinquent District Attorney Report

Attempts of poisoning their teacher, larceny, and graffiti were just a few of the issues that the District Attorney (DA) of Juvenile Courts has encountered with youth in his job, their actions stemmed from non-existent or detrimental influences. The youth of our county are constantly facing issues of abandonment, broken homes, and drug-related issues. At certain times the at-risk youth are a statistic destined for failure without any hope of transitioning to a positive path. I too come from a single drug related house hold and I was able to relate to the District Attorney's (Mr. Anthony) words as he explained to me the issues that youth like me face everyday.

He explained how a majority of issues facing teens across the county derive from a non-existent father and mother and most cases a non-existent father. Like many, we were a family that had to fend for ourselves with a sister taking on the role of mom, while my father was selling drugs and splitting his fatherly duties with his other children. One of my non-existent sisters, who has yet to meet our father also decided to take the same path as my father and has been institutionalized for drugs. My younger brother has Lymes disease, unable to move his neck, as a result of his parent's drug involvement.

Mr. Anthony also informed me that more than ninety percent of his court cases revolve around kids with a broken home. This can be attributed to drug addiction, abusive parents or homelessness whether the kids are addicted to drugs, their parents are abusive, or they have no stable home to report to every night. He solves these issues by sometimes putting children into group homes, although he emphasized how he tries other techniques before having to result to that resolution. He uses therapy, wilderness camps, and mentor programs for kids that have no invested family members. Providing these kids with some type of role model to talk to is vital in promoting healthy family relations.

Anthony works with various types of kids that walk through his court doors, but they all have one thing in common. They are looking for some type of guidance. Anthony's words were "The best type of cure for these kids isn't the juvenile detention center or placement in a foster home, just someone to look up to." The kids in my neighborhood at work remind me of the similar situations I faced in my youth. While he takes the courtroom position to help their cases, and I take a mentor role at The Boys & Girls Club. I hope we are able to improve their lives and break the cycle and move past their struggles and break the bonds that once held them back.