

EDITORIALS: *HERE'S WHAT I THINK!*

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By Roberto S., 7th gr.

Phones should be used in school, because you could contact parents, have school apps, and make school more fun. Phones can be used well when used correctly. If schools have strict rules about phones, they can be beneficial to our education.

One way phones can be helpful is you can contact parents, guardians, and 911. If an intruder came into the school you would have to contact someone right away. In some serious cases of extreme weather, cell phones might be the only way to contact our parents or emergency services like 911. If you were in the bathroom during a lockdown emergency, you could fall victim to the intruder's bad intents. Cell phones in school can save lives.

Secondly, school apps can help your schoolwork. Apps like ebackpack, IXL, Moby Max, calculator, and TCI can help you succeed in school. Ebackpack and calculator can help you with your homework, while TCI, IXL, and Moby Max can help develop your brain. Phones in school can help you succeed.

Lastly, phones can help relieve stress in a controlled manner. If teachers do their jobs and block certain websites and control the time the student has his phone, it could be a great way to relieve stress of the day. Also, when students are taking a test, phones should be taken away until after the test. 40% of teens are stressed, and I think phones can solve this problem.

In conclusion, phones can solve many problems schools have. You could argue that kids would just play games in their phones, but when not doing an activity that involves phones, they would be put away. Phones can be used for fun at home, but in school (when strict rules are in place) they can be used for education.

By Rosalinda V., 7th gr. **Stopping Violence**

I think that violence should be stopped. People don't feel safe walking alone. This makes people get scared. Physical violence can result in serious injury. This can make people feel unsafe. You can use words to solve problems. There are better ways to solve problems. You could argue that it helps people learn how to solve problems, but here's the weakness: you should never result to violence. It is never okay to hurt people.

By Esthefany V., 6th gr.

Should the cafeteria serve home-cooked meals? Cafeteria food is not good!

Every day thousands of students do not like eating their lunch because the cafeteria food is not good. Students would rather starve all day than eat it. This is a big problem.

However, if the cafeteria food was replaced by home-cooked meals, it would be better. First, home-cooked meals taste better than the cafeteria food. I know because my mother's meals taste so much better than the cafeteria food.

Second, home-cooked meals are healthier for students than the cafeteria food. I

know because my mother knows what to cook to keep me healthy. Third, students will look forward to lunch if the meals were home-cooked meals. I know because I would look forward to lunch if I knew my lunch would taste good. Finally, if you eat healthy you will focus more in school.

But people may argue that it's hard to cook for many students every day. And they may also argue that it would cost too much money to buy food. But since the school already buys food, they can spend a little more for better food. It is worth time and money to care for the students.

By Yaritza A., 2nd gr.

I think we should not chew gum at school. One reason is some gum isn't healthy for you. I know this because a lot of gum has sugar. Another reason is students throw gum on the floor. I see gum on the floor in my school. My last reason is gum makes you distracted. It is a loud noise. It tasted good but is unhealthy. Students don't choose to use gum respectfully.

By Alejandro S., 5th gr.

I think that people should really throw their garbage away in garbage cans because some might kill some plants. If you don't throw away your garbage, you might kill animals and humans because the trees give oxygen. My reasons are you should throw away your garbage because do you really want to kill plants? Do you really want to kill the animals? The garbage would sometimes go into the lake and kill the fish. Do you want to make more rats and insects? It will attract insects and rats and make more insects and rats.

People are saying if one person doesn't throw away their garbage it doesn't matter. There will be more than just one person. People should throw their garbage away in garbage cans.

By Keydy G., 5th gr.

I think that the driving age should be raised to 21. The first reason is more teenagers get involved in car crashes at a younger age. If you are older, you are likely to be more responsible. The next reason is teens hit others while driving because they are not cautious to look at their surroundings. The last reason is teenagers tend to text while driving and don't think about the consequences. You could argue that teenagers will learn to be independent, but they could take their freedom too far and put others in danger. Based on all the evidence presented, we should raise the driving age to 21.

By Kevin E., 3rd gr.

Why Is School Good and Not good?

Here's why I think school is good. The kids don't fight too much. The kids don't talk in the hallways and everyone shares supplies. These reasons make our school better because when there are no bullies and everyone can be friends, it makes it easier to concentrate, and so that everyone has materials to work well.

You could argue that because talking in the hallway would be very noisy, kids won't concentrate on their test. But here's the weakness, because you might want to say something important. School is good because everyone is respectful.

By Fernando B., 7th gr., and Noah

I think phones should be allowed in schools. My first reason is when I have to use a calculator. My phone would be useful if there are no extra calculators for me to use. Another reason is when I have to contact my parents. Sometimes people don't trust me with their phones, even if I have to contact my parents so bad. My final argument is when people have to contact me, but they don't because we're not allowed to have phones with us.

You might say that phones could be a distraction. I disagree, because we need phones so we can be safe throughout the school day. I conclusion, I believe that phones should be allowed in school.

By Hana B., 3rd gr.

Some people don't take school seriously. The grades at my school are worth your entire life. Kids fool around and make noises. Some kids distract me while I'm working. For example, some kids do inappropriate stuff. Kids get in trouble and it affects my time. Because of those kids I can't follow the teacher. You could argue that school is not important, but here's the weakness: it can shape your entire future. This is why I'm concerned that students don't take school seriously.

By Dayveana B., 3rd gr.

People need to follow the rules. My first reason is that I don't like computers. I like when I write things, not type them. Second, the killing and the shooting—I don't want it to keep happening because people are mean to each other. The third reason is people don't pick up their dog poo-poo--people need to start doing it. You could argue that you don't want to go back to computers because it hurts your fingers, but here's the weakness: I sometimes don't want to do my homework.

Nely A., 1st gr.

The park is dirty. The park is wet. There is water on the slide. Some people think it's clean. The park has garbage. There is paper on the ground. There is dog pee. It is in the grass. The park is not fun when it's wet and dirty. When the park is clean it is like a rainbow.

By Rachel N., 3rd gr.

A current issue at my school is when teachers interrupt a student when he/she is reading. Three reasons why interrupting is an issue: we'll lose our place, interrupting is rude, and we'll have to start over.

Here are some more reasons: It wastes our time. We lose track of what we are thinking of, and interrupting loses our learning.

The teachers always change the subject when they interrupt. Sometimes I'm not ready to change the subject.

Interrupting keeps me from learning!

By Alexandre H., 6th gr.

I think we should stop closing schools. The first good reason I have is kids need a good education. My evidence is it prepares kids for college. My second reason is people might lose their friends. I think this is bad to lose your friends, because they keep me company. People should stop closing schools because it teaches you math, science, and other subjects. Math, science, and other subjects prepare you for life. You could argue that we need to close the schools to save money for the government. However, if our kids aren't in school, they might live a life of crime. My strong finish is education will leave you with a successful life.

By Josephine A., 8th gr.

Adults need to end drama in a fair way. First, you could get in trouble and you have to talk to the teachers. For example, the assistant principal might need to come in the drama to know what's going on. Also, you have to stay away from that person that started the drama. In a different grade, if people start drama, the assistant principal needs to call their parents or step in the drama. If the teachers don't step in the drama, then the drama will still continue. Kids build on whatever they want when there's no punishment. Kids could end their drama, but it's going to cause more drama. Teachers need to interfere with school drama now.

By Krystal T., 1st gr.

Bullying should stop because it makes people sad. People are sad when other people say mean things to them. Bullying should stop because you can get in trouble when someone sees you.

Karen E., kindergarten (with her tutor)

My school is confusing. It's too loud, so I can't focus. My teacher is always telling our class to quiet down. You could argue that kids are just talking and having fun, but it's school, so they are supposed to be learning. Also, the loud noise makes me sad, so I can't focus. It makes assignments difficult. Finally, my classmates distract me from my work. The people around me talk a lot. All in all, my school is confusing because it is loud, my classmates distract me, and my emotions can get in the way.

Frances Leonela C., 5th gr.

Stop Chopping Down Trees!

People should develop new technology to create paper without using trees.

People have to cut down trees to make paper. But it might damage the oxygen if there are only a few trees in the world.

Animals live in trees. The trees are the animals' home, and if we cut the trees down the animals might be in danger because predators can be looking for them.

If we didn't have trees, the forests will be dull or we might not even have the great rainforests! There will be a bunch of small plants in forests, nothing else. It will be boring and nothing to see.

If someone said, "We have to use trees to make paper. What are we going to use then?" And my response is, "We can use some of the new tech to make paper, like the iPhones and the stencils are similar to a pencil and paper."

That's why I think we should make new tech for paper and not use trees.

By Dayveana, 3rd gr.

My main idea is that people need to follow the rules. I do not like computers, like when I type too fast and it hurts. I don't want the killing and the shooting to keep on happening. People don't pick up their dog's dog-poop. People need to start picking up their dog's dog-poop.

You could argue that I do not want to go back to computer because it hurts my fingers. But that is what is happening.

By Diego L., 2nd gr.

My neighborhood is noisy because of the cars, horns, and yelling. The cars are noisy because the horns are loud. The yelling is noisy.

By Oscar E., 1st gr.

I have a mean neighbor. There are ways to try and deal with it. I can stop the mean neighbor by telling the landlord, or I could tell the police if things get out of hand, or I could go to my cousin's house. The landlord can help solve the problem because he can kick the neighbor out of the apartment. The police can help solve the problem because they can make the neighbor stop being mean. Going to my cousin's house could help solve the problem because I would be safe from the neighbor. You could argue telling the police is going too far, but if no action is taken, the neighbor will get stronger. There are many ways to deal with a mean neighbor.

Sara G., 3rd gr.

I think that CTA is expensive because they take away money. If you don't believe me, it happens to my family. We put in \$5, and then they took \$1.75 away from the card.

Then they mostly take away more money. I think that, because my mom added \$10, and the machine said that there was only \$5.50. Also, now people have less money for rent and food. Last time we wasted \$10 for two rides, and we couldn't go to a restaurant to eat. You could say that they keep the CTA clean and good. But here's the weakness. They still didn't keep the CTA clean, and people might not ride the CTA trains or buses any more.

So I think that the CTA should be less expensive, so then people can go to eat at restaurants or give money to the poor, or the poor can ride the train and visit their family.

By Berenice, 1st gr.

Chicago can be bad. There is a lot of trash on the street. In the park there is a lot of trash. Also, things get stolen. A lot of bikes get stolen. Chicago is very noisy.

There are loud cars. You could argue that there are nice places. But the nice places are noisy. Overall, Chicago can be bad.

Bike Trails, by Melissa I., 2nd gr., and her tutor
We should create smoother bike trails.

To begin, the bike trails are too crowded. For example, many people enjoy biking on the trails, causing them to be crowded.

In addition, the bike trails are too bumpy and cracked. When I bike, I face many bumps in the trail. The bike trails are too dangerous because of the bumps. Once my brother fell in a sidewalk crack, and got very hurt.

Smoothing the bike trails would cost too much money. Although smoothing the bike trails would cost a lot of money, it is a needed improvement in our city.

In conclusion, we need to improve the bike trails.

By Frankie F., 5th gr.

I think that there are too many people being killed in Chicago. One reason is car accidents. I think this because in the news it said there are too many car accidents. Another reason is gang fights. I know this because in YouTube some people started to fight with other gangs, and some of them were shooting at each other. Also, another reason is that people are being drowned in Lake Michigan. I know this because I saw it with my own eyes. But then they rescued him. We can solve this by more life guards and more police in the streets. You could argue that nothing will change, but the weakness is it will still help even if it is a little help. Overall, I think there are too many people being killed in Chicago. If the city takes my reasons, but will be a little bit safer.

By Jaely E., 7th gr.

Do you believe in checks for behavior and bathroom? The checks that teachers give for bathroom and behavior cause drama. Three checks and you will get a detention. Teacher and student waste one hour when [they could be] doing something else instead. If you get checks you don't go to Field Day or dance parties. Students will not get to have fun and [they'll] lose the activities of school. The student argues with the teacher. Students might not agree on the checks they get and cause drama.

By Phyllis R., 3rd gr. and her tutor

No More Bad Things

There is too much violence in Chicago. Neighborhoods are being torn apart. There are too many bad people. They are getting away with violence while people are being put away for crimes they did not commit. People are getting hurt. I know many people who have died or been hurt through violence. My family has been affected by violence. One of my family members has died from violence. Some people may say that violence is okay, but violence is never the answer. There is a lot of violence in my neighborhood and to make it safer, we need to change that.

By Alex T., 1st gr., dictated to tutor

My neighborhood makes me scared. There is trash on the streets and loud neighbors. It is not like my old country. When I walk into town I see trash covering the sidewalks. They always turn off the lights at night, and that scares me. You could argue that there are police and people to clean it up. But they don't always do a good job.

By Jah'lil, kindergarten, and his tutor, Carla

Too Much Violence in Chicago

There are too many violent people in Chicago. People who are violent or disrespectful tend to leave trash on the streets. Other times, the kids' parents are mean and so the kids are mean. This means that kids in Chicago are rude to other kids, called bullies. Not only that, but people push me or other adults (whether they are kids or not), and it's rude and annoying.

You can tell that the government should do something about it, because people get hurt every day, but also pollute our area. That's why Chicago should be taken care of and should be clean with more policemen.

Although someone might come and visit Chicago and say, "This is a beautiful city, nothing is harmful here," they are wrong. Yes, this is pretty, but it is dangerous day and night, especially in other parts of Chicago. That's why more policemen should be around to control the violence.

By Reaisha J., 2nd gr., and her tutor

We believe that teachers give students too much homework. All this work affects kids' daily lives. Teachers should give less work because too much work makes your hands hurt, takes away your free time, and causes stress. All the writing hurts your hands and makes them tired. Since you're so busy doing homework, you don't have any time to play with your siblings and friends. Finally, all the work causes stress because you're worried about getting the work done and doing a good job. You could argue that all the work helps kids learn and get smarter, but the weakness is that kids are so worried about getting the work done that they don't absorb and learn the information, so, even though a lot of work could make kids smarter, it also hurts their hands, takes away their free time, and causes stress.

By Bryan V., 1st gr.

I think Chicago is safe because there is the police. The Fire Department and hospital keep us safe. The police keep us safe by putting the bad people in jail. The fire department keeps us safe by putting out fires to keep us from being hurt. Some people say Chicago is not safe because people hurt other people, but the police put them in jail. This is why Chicago is safe.

By Carlos F., 3rd gr.

I think no loud music in the night because people can't sleep. I fall asleep very long because of the loud music. The next day people are tired in the afternoon. I am sleepy during school. The music is disruptive. People can't concentrate. The

music is affecting my community. You could argue that the music is not too loud. But other people don't like the loud music.

By Larry S., 3rd gr.

I think that teachers take you to the principal's office too much. It is not fair, because they stole my money. They called my parents and grounded me. I stabbed someone with a pencil. Then I didn't get any fun. I had to stay and work instead of going to recess. They take you to the office, then you get grounded and you don't get to have fun. By taking me to the principal's office, you're protecting the school, but you're wrecking my education.

By Giselle V., 4th gr.

You think Chicago is perfect, but it's not. It has a secret: Housing in Chicago needs to have a lower price.

First, housing prices should be lowered because people are homeless. 49,505 people are homeless in Chicago. 33% of them are children. Some people can afford housing, but they lose so much money that they cannot afford food, clothes, and school supplies. The housing itself might have things inside that are broken and do not work. For example, the heating might break during the cold winter. If the house is in bad condition, it is not worth the high price. People think that housing sellers need money, but the seller made money that was taken away from the buyer. The housing companies already have a lot of money, so they should lower prices, since they have enough money to survive on. For those reasons, housing pricing should be lowered.

By James N., 6th gr.

School fees should be lowered. Some school fees limit the amount of food a family can buy. Some families can't afford the fees. Sometimes, my family can't buy food for me and my family to eat. You should know where the school fees are going.

You could argue that school fees shouldn't be lowered because maybe that school uses the money for new materials. But here's the weakness, we don't know where the money's going.

In conclusion, some families can't afford the school fees, or they can't afford the supplies to survive, and we don't know where the money is going.

By Alexander O., kindergarten, and his tutor

Chicago needs more playgrounds. It needs more playgrounds because kids can play, and playing is fun. They can also explore Chicago and learn about the city. Finally, the kids could play with toys that they couldn't play with at home. One could argue that it would be too expensive, but people could donate toys to lower the overall cost. All in all, Chicago needs more playgrounds because they are fun.

By Dioselyn G., 5th gr.

I think that we should have iPads at school. iPads will help us work together and improve our art, music, math, and reading.

iPads help us work together. Working together will allow us to finish work early, and do our work well.

iPads will also help improve art and music skills. Different apps on the iPads will help us draw better and improve my understanding of the characteristics of art. iPads will additionally let me listen to and practice my music.

My math and reading will also be better once my school gets iPads. They will let me read books online, and articles, too. I could also take notes online, and watch math videos to help me learn more. I could also look up different tricks to remember math problems.

Someone might argue that kids will take inappropriate pictures and listen to inappropriate music. Kids might also break their iPads. However, kids are responsible by buying a case. To discourage kids from taking inappropriate pictures/music, the school should give them a detention.

Overall, iPads will help improve our education by helping us work together, helping us with our art and music skills, and improving our math and reading skills.

By Nathan B., 6th gr.

We need more stores in Chicago blocks because if there are more stores there would be less hunger, especially for homeless people. If the stores raise a lot of money, they can donate some of the money to charity. If there were more stores, it would be easier to get there and to live. One way it's more convenient because it would save you a lot on gas money.

One might say if there are more stores, there will be a lot more robberies. On the other hand, we can put more high tech security to stop robberies.

All the reasons provided should encourage governments to give discounts on land to open more stores on Chicago blocks. All in all, we need more stores for convenience, world hunger, and charity.

By Jamyla J., 7th gr.

I think bullying should stop in all schools. I think this because it keeps people from going to school, because they get scared and sad that they might get hurt again. I think that being hurt is not fun, so I can see why people do not want to go to school because they're getting bullied. Also, some people might commit suicide, because they want bullying to stop, and they feel like there's no other way. I think suicide is something horrible. Also, bullying hurts people's feelings because it hurts them really bad and they might think it is true. I think that it is not true, what the bully says. However it might hurt other people. This is why I think it should stop. Therefore I think bullying should stop. That way everyone is happy. Some people could argue that it does not hurt too much. However it really hurts people's feelings, and it can affect the way the person thinks about themselves, which is why bullying needs to stop.

By Jovanny S., 7th gr.

Drugs, violence, death, this is what gangs bring to the city of Chicago. I think they ruin the city of Chicago.

Gangs cause innocent death. Innocent deaths shouldn't happen because the people haven't done anything bad. Thousands of people are dying each day and gangs are increasing.

One main thing gang members do is sell drugs. We don't need drugs because it has a negative effect on everyone. If someone takes drugs, that person might make bad decisions.

Most gangs include kids in their gangs. The kids are too young to make their own decisions. Because of this, kids would probably get hurt and they would regret it when they grow up.

You can say that you gain respect, but that kind of respect is bad. If you want to win respect, you should help someone, not hurt someone.

In conclusion, gangs must be stopped so that everyone can be safe. If we don't stop them, they will be running the city soon.

By Jordynn J., kindergarten, and her tutor

I think there's a lot of garbage in Chicago. I see the garbage everywhere. I see the garbage in the street because people don't pick it up. I see garbage on the trees because people put it there. I see garbage in the park because there are not enough garbage cans. In some areas, Chicago is clean, but, where I live, it's kind of dirty. I think all the garbage should be put in the garbage cans. That's it!

By Jonathan E., 9th gr.

Teachers don't give us personal space, because the teacher is always in my face. My teacher makes me use my fingers to read, instead of using a pencil, and the teachers try to control us.

One way that teachers don't give us space is that they are always in my face. When the teacher wants to hear me read, they get close by my face and they don't give me any space. This isn't giving me any personal space because it is making me feel uncomfortable when they do it.

People in opposition could say that teachers need to go into students' personal space to be able to teach the students better. But there is a weakness to this claim. The students could be threatened by the teachers because they are always right to me.

By Marilu G, 1st gr., and her tutor

Chicago has too much garbage! We think that Chicago has a lot of garbage. First of all, homeless people look through garbage for food and you see it on the street. Garbage makes Chicago look dirty. People might not want to live in a dirty environment. It can pollute the air. This is bad for the environment. You could argue that Chicago is overall cleaner than other cities. But here's the weakness: There is still a lot of garbage in Chicago. Overall, trash is hurting the environment and needs to be thrown away.

By Diego L., 2nd gr.

Students should wear uniforms. It's cost effective, and parents save money. Students would look nice and uniform. No one would be showing off.

By Celeste L., 5th gr.

I think that stray cats and kittens should be caught and put in shelters because it would make neighborhoods safer. Cats and kittens usually scratch us if we have food, and they will jump on us and we might get hurt. They would do it with other animals with food. If they're gone we're going to be safer.

It would save more generations of birds because cats usually hunt them. And then if cats keep on hunting them until none are left, there would be no sweet sound to hear or beautiful birds to look at.

It could help get cats and kittens adopted and make fleas or ticks get off. They could get adopted if they are put in shelters and get cleaned up so ticks or fleas get off of them.

Also they will be adopted if they are well-fed and clean, not dirty.

You could argue that dog lovers will not be happy because their dogs are not going to chase anything, so they will keep on getting fatter and fatter and that will be terrible. Dun-dun-dun-dunnn.

But here's the weakness. Dog lovers' dogs could chase squirrels and then the dog lovers will also be getting some exercise.

So that's why stray cats and kittens need to be put in shelters.

By Omaree M., 1st gr., with his tutor

In school kids should not have homework. Reason one is because it is too hard. If kids cannot do it, they don't learn anything. Also, if it's hard, kids can't eat dinner because it takes too long. Finally, when students don't do their homework, they get into trouble. Teachers think homework helps students learn. This is bad because if you don't understand it, nothing is learned. We think homework should be done at school.

By Armando S., 8th gr.

School food is bad. It tastes bad, not that the cooks are bad cooks. You can find hair in the food every day!!! It looks bad because it makes me think about a rat, and it smells like a skunk. You could argue that the food is good for you, but the people need to taste the food before they give it out to the kids. Strong finish: They need to go to cooking class to make better food.

By Renita R., 3rd gr.

No Homework

In schools there should be no homework. I think this for many reasons. If it is too hard, students won't learn anything. It is the same thing you do the next day, and it only stresses students out.

First, if homework is hard for students, they will not learn anything, I know this because when I get homework, it is too hard. Therefore, students will not learn.

Next, homework is usually the same thing that I do in class the next day. I know this because in class our homework was done, therefore, making homework unnecessary.

Finally, homework only increases stress in students. I know this because my peers and I become very stressed when doing homework. Therefore, homework doesn't help you learn anything.

By Gerardo S., 8th gr.

Gun Violence

I think gun violence has to come to a stop in the near future. Many innocent kids have died because of somebody's stupid mistakes. They think they are almighty and powerful because they have a weapon, but that's not what makes you strong, your two fists, those two things make you a man.

Many young innocent kids are dead because one stupid person made a mistake and missed, or some people have to go for the kids because of something your parent or sibling had done. The killer really doesn't care if he killed an innocent kid, because he feels he got a message across to the family. But he has to place himself in the parents' shoes and imagine all the pain and depression they are going through at that moment. He has to imagine what if that was his son/'daughter, brother/sister, or mother/father. He has to just for one moment realize what he has caused to the family.

Our city of Chicago has changed in a bad way. All of the violence that has occurred is changing Chicago. Pretty soon we won't know the city we are living in because of everything happening. Many people don't call us Chicago anymore; they call us Chi-Raq. If you were to go out of state and tell somebody you were from Chicago, they would give you a weird look and maybe even be scared.

By Cornelio G., 3rd gr.

People don't like traffic. Here is my reason. When traffic is on, we have to drive slowly. If somebody crashes someone's car, it is dangerous. Traffic might make people late to work. Being late makes your boss angry. You could argue that traffic could be safer because if there is an accident it is not safe to drive fast in an accident zone. But here's the weakness. It causes people to be late and also people can still crash if they are driving slowly. People need to fix traffic now.

By Guadalupe E., 5th gr.

Here's what I think: Students should take a foreign language. People should know more languages so when they travel somewhere, they will understand the language. One reason is you need help reading train signs. My evidence is being late or missing your train because you aren't able to read the language of the signs. Another reason is that you can't understand the people. The piece of evidence is getting lost and needing directions to where you're going. The third reason is when you want to buy something but you can't understand how much money it costs because it's in a different language. Here is a piece of evidence, you can't get or buy the supplies you need or want because the language of the money is different.

You could argue that we shouldn't be taking all this time in school just to learn a language. But here's the weakness! It's very important to learn other languages because if you're going somewhere with a different language, then you won't understand the language if you didn't study the language. The world is getting smaller. People are coming to our country. People are going to other countries. It's very important to learn a language at an early age because kids' minds are like sponges, so they learn more quickly.

By Yoredanose, 5th gr., and her tutor

I believe that there should be fewer deaths in Chicago. Killing is not good or kind to do. You're taking somebody's life.

Chicago will be a safer place without people being shot. Then there will be more visitors in Chicago. Visitors will not come if there are deaths in Chicago because they will be scared.

You could argue that shooting somebody is just expressing anger at someone, and people should just ignore it. However, you don't have to be violent to get someone back. Chicago will be a better place without these deaths.

By Meklet D., 6th gr., and her tutor

Poachers should stop killing the rhinos and elephants. The rhinos and elephants are getting extinct. The poachers don't have to kill them. It is unfair. The animals can't help themselves. It is illegal. Poachers should stop killing rhinos and elephants.

By Melissa D., 7th gr., and her tutor

Shootings in my neighborhood damage the people in it. Shootings kill innocent people. During shootings, people, including children, who have done nothing wrong, are shot, fatally.

Families are damaged by the shootings. Families can lose loved ones during shootings, which can emotionally tear them apart.

This makes the neighborhood dangerous. People die, and shootings could occur at any time, so it is dangerous to be outside.

This is why I say that the shootings have to stop.