

Jacksonville Shooting Journal Entry

My first thoughts on this article is that it is heartbreaking and extremely negative. At a gaming tournament in Jacksonville, Florida, David Katz walked in and killed 2 people then killed himself. This act also injured 11 people; 9 with gunshot wounds and 2 fleeing the area. Unfortunately, I am also unsurprised that this has happened. All throughout 2018, there has been mass shootings reported in schools and places with large gatherings. I think that we are all being desensitized to the fact that more shootings are happening and are not active in finding solutions. There has been a lot of controversy surrounding gun rights but there is no solution forthcoming for prevention. Furthermore, not a lot of people are investigating why this is happening. 2018 was the year for the greatest numbers of mass shooting and there has to be a reason for it.

An interesting point made in this article is by Gov. Rick Scott who said, ““Why are young men willing to give up their life, or why don’t they value somebody else’s life?... ‘We’ve got to figure this out.’” (pg 5) This reiterates the point I brought up earlier, why is this happening? Maybe when we find out why this is happening, it is the first step in finding ways to prevent what is happening. It used to be abnormal to have shootings in schools or public places, but this year when people hear about a shooting, they are almost desensitized. It is on the news for a few days before people move on to the next topic.

*Transgender Girl, 12, Is Violently Threatened After Facebook Post by Classmate's Parent*

My first thoughts when reading this article were pessimistic because it really shows how bullying has escalated in our society. The author discusses how a Facebook post made by one adult complaining about a transgender child escalated to multiple adults posting inappropriate comment and threats targeting the 12 year old. "Another suggested telling other children to beat the girl up in the bathroom so "it won't come back" (Caron, 2). It is much more common to find children bullying each other, especially at a young age, however, you wouldn't expect to see adults bullying and threatening a child. Young children are very impressionable. When a child sees his/her parents bullying a child the child than will think that bullying is okay. Rather than spreading love and positivity they end up spreading hate and negativity.

"Words really matter...They're powerful and we can use them for good or we can use them to tear each other down" (Caron, 4). I found this quote to be very powerful because it has always been said the "actions speak louder than words," however words can have a major impact on a person as well. When I was in elementary school, I was constantly taunted. Looking back to it, I wouldn't think much of it but being young at the time those constant taunts really impacted me. For many years I was always insecure and was always so self conscious about how other people perceived me. It took me many years to finally realize that not everyone is going to like me but not everyone is going to hate me. I realized that I had been spending so much time worrying about what other people thought that I was never really myself around strangers. Eventually I realized that it doesn't matter what other people think, it matters what people who care about me think. I started opening up and being myself around other and stopped worrying what everyone thought. Words really do impact an individual and once its said it can't be unsaid.

**Alizé Cornet: US Open embroiled in sexism controversy**

Rossingh, Danielle. "US Open Embroiled in Sexism Controversy." *CNN*, Cable News Network, 30 Aug. 2018, [www.cnn.com/2018/08/29/tennis/us-open-alize-cornet-sexism-row/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2018/08/29/tennis/us-open-alize-cornet-sexism-row/index.html).

Recently, there has been much controversy in regards to women's treatment in the sports world. It has ranged from the silencing of sexual abuse in USA Gymnastics to the double standards in place between men and women in the tennis world. In this article concerning the warning Alizé Cornet received for briefly taking off her shirt to turn fix it since it was on wrong several interesting points were made. For one matter, many complained about the double standard that in women's tennis there is an apparent rule in place to keep them from removing their shirts on the court while there is no rule for men's tennis and they have done it frequently in the past. Not only this, but Pam Shriver, a previous US Open finalist, tweeted that she hadn't even known that there was a rule keeping Ms. Cornet from removing her shirt on the far corner of the court because she and other women had done it multiple times back when they played without any warning or penalty being placed upon them. This raises the question on whether or not these rules should even be in place considering their unfairness and the matter that umpires at these matches pick and choose when and on whom they'd like to enforce them.

After seeing how double standards have been applied at varying degrees and how organizations will try to pass the blame or find a scapegoat after the occurrence in order to avoid responsibility it only motivates myself and other young women to continue to press for equal rights in all places. Women still face discrimination in various places and at varying degrees and while equality has been increasing with small increments it is clear to see that there is much more work to be done in the future by the next generation. Until women of every race, religion, creed, and orientation are provided with the same rights that a man has there struggle for women's rights is still ongoing.

AP English Language and Composition  
Sample Journal Response #4

“You Could Be Too Much of a Team Player” by Sue Shellenbarger (*WSJ*)

This headline caught my attention because I think of myself as a good team player. I began to wonder if maybe I was too involved in other people’s problems, trying to help them. I knew that being too selfless was bad but I didn’t realize how much it hindered one’s own success. I was also surprised to learn that a bad team player could be someone who is too helpful. As I mentioned earlier, I am a team player and love to assist those around me whenever I have the chance. I often catch myself overloading on work because sometimes, I think that I’m the only one who can properly do a certain task. That is a bad habit and can negatively affect my personal goals and work. This topic is connected to me because I am taught about teamwork in school all the time. In JROTC, we learn how to properly divide projects into different parts and delegate others to complete a task. My generation has been taught how to work effectively in a group setting since the beginning of our school career; it has become something we love and hate. Because some people are bad team players, they don’t do any work. Other students tend to take over the whole project and block out any suggestions they don’t like. I imagine that if schools taught students how to correctly work as a team and evenly divide work, group projects would not be a problem and in the future, we would all be good team players. This article helped me fully realize that sometimes, one needs to let others do what they want. One cannot manage everything all the time and it is okay to relax and go with the flow.