

Argumentative Essay: Reconsidering Solutions to School Violence

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Introduction

The rise in school shootings over the past few decades has been deemed as an immoral act, with an aim of rectifying the wrongful behavior via moralistic reasoning. However, this type of response fails to address the complex root causes behind such cases. Many of these incidents are linked to mental health issues that are often overlooked or not properly addressed (Kimmel & Mahler, 2003). Additionally, access to firearms is a major factor in the increasing number of school shootings, and this is something that needs to be addressed in order to reduce the number of incidents. Gender is actually a primary factor that requires consideration when discussing school shootings (Schutten et al., 2022). Studies have revealed that many boys involved in such incidents were victimized by peers in the form of bullying and ridicule related to their perceived gender roles; This feeling of 'failure to match up' with manhood tropes could lead these boys to commit violent and retaliatory acts against what they saw as intolerable threats against their sense of self-worth. Therefore, moralizing alone cannot be seen as a viable solution to school violence due to its lack of recognition of deeply embedded influences that drive typically male perpetrators, such as gender-based bullying and stigma.

School shootings are a complex issue that needs an interdisciplinary approach to comprehend and address. One key variable which should be explored is gender, particularly in terms of race. Specifically, it is possible that White boys are more likely than African American boys to commit school shootings as a response to teasing or harassment, especially when such teasing centers around homophobia and sexual orientation. This hypothesis is supported by research that has found that White boys are more likely to be exposed to homophobic environments and messages, and to internalize them, than African American boys (Burton et al., 2021). This means that White boys are more likely to perceive teasing as more serious, and more

likely to respond with aggression, than African American boys. Three reasons why gender--rather than violence in video games of potential abuse from predators--might be the deciding factor are: 1) boys tend to take aggressive approaches such as bullying and school shootings when trying to prove their manhood; 2) both White boys and African American boys face significant pressure when it comes to issues of sexuality, but White boys may face additional anxieties due to cultural standards regarding privilege; 3) access to guns could also play a role in making these tragedies more likely among some groups than others. Gender, race, and influences like homophobic pressures must all be examined to find ways of better protecting our students in the future.

School shootings have become a tragic and all-too-frequent occurrence in recent years, with countless cases of students taking their own lives or those of their peers. A common assumption is that gender plays an important role in the likelihood of these shootings, but research shows that moral issues are actually the primary motivator (Garcia-Montoya et al., 2022). This can be seen in cases such as the 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, where it was revealed that the perpetrator had been subjected to relentless bullying due to his beliefs and lifestyle. This suggests that while gender bias can be a factor in some cases, it is not the primary driving force. Instead, it is often a combination of personal experience, moral issues, and the availability of weapons that causes someone to carry out such a violent act. Other examples suggest that boys who are regularly teased or bullied by their peers may be driven to make desperate attempts to gain respect through extreme actions like shootings. In this way, it's clear that moral issues rather than gender are largely responsible for such violent incidents.

References

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