DONT

SHOOT

BECAUSE

youTHink

Reflections from the youTHink Community Event:
Race & Justice from Ferguson to Los Angeles
October 2014
To all the Race & Justice from Ferguson to Los Angeles event participants,

Thank you for your insights and contributions on the topics of race and justice following the shooting of unarmed teenager Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO. We appreciate both your willingness and courage to share your personal stories, thoughts and reflections with your friends, peers and the larger community.

Attached is the Race & Justice zine created by event participants, a collection of drawings, statements, quotes, and stories. Each page is a response to the prompt, “Don’t Shoot Because...”. These pages illuminate powerful messages against police brutality, discrimination, the militarization of schools and other social issues that relate to the race & justice theme.

We encourage you to continue sharing your voice and this zine with friends, family and community members.

Sincerely,

The youTHink Team
Because

Im your daughter, Son, Sister, Brother, Mother, Father, Uncle, Aunt, Friends!!

When will I ever be able to walk down my street without fear, fear that they wont stop me, stop me because Im walking too fast because of how I look because Im brown because Im a girl

-Melanie Strong
Don't shoot because God's gift of life only comes once.
Don't Shoot Because...

...just as much as I surf.
DON'T SHOOT
BECAUSE...
YOU CAN RUIN A FAMILY
Don't take off my shoes to color.
So take my color out of my shoe.
Don't shoot because
I have a name
Don't shoot because
I have a future
Don't shoot because
I have a mother
Don't shoot because
I am alive.
And I deserve to breathe.
And I deserve to fight for the future
I deserve.
to be me
to be free
to be human.
Don't shoot because
I am not my skin
And you are not your gun.
Don't shoot because there is still unexplored terrain I long to see.
DON'T SHOOT BECAUSE... 

They can be INNOCENT
Don't Shoot

because...

I'm innocent!

you don't know the story...

I don't deserve this...

it won't help...

you may be wrong...

I have a family
"Don't Shoot Because I have a college"
Don't shoot because there is no cure.
Don't shoot!

Because certain people want to life their future and be able to experience what they've always dreamed of.

— Lynwood's (Art Club) Leaving A Mark member
Don't shoot
because I am
human and
I only wanted
to know

What that means.

I just wanted to explore the things I could do. I could feel. I wanted to learn. Right. But I also wanted to learn from it. All for I could become a better human being. A happy one. An 'old' one. Comfortable and secure with liberty and uncertainty.

Please, don't shoot me.
Don't Shoot
Because
There is still a lot
I have to live for!
Don't Shoot

Because...

God says
Thou Shalt not kill.
In the ten commandments.

Humans were created
to love.

The world needs more happiness than sorrow.

May God bless you all.

Lynwood High School
Aylin 11th
Don'thoot

Because

Our March

She

Mary

Charm
Believe
Wish

ET
Reynolrades, 10/14

Hope

Dream

How to draw?
A chance to learn
If I deserve
I can't draw

Because

Don't shoot
"From gender to skin color, the completion of your pigment."

- Macklemore, Sammuel Love

~ Don't shoot me because I am colored. From darks to lights, we're all the same. (I have a dream that one day my four kids will be judged not by their skin color but for their character.)

- Martin Luther King Jr.

So because I dress like this I'm suspicious?

~ Margarita Arango  LHS 9th
I'm innocent!

Don't shoot the

Died for just having a water gun look alike to a real gun.
I still have

to live...
World in A Chance In This

Dream To Make

Because I Have A

Don't Shoot
Don't shoot because...

It won't always solve a problem.

People have reason. People are innocent. Why not confront the problem and solve it in a more appropriate manner. People have goals they want to reach. They have their whole life ahead of them. People change.
Life is beautiful. We deserve respect and we also deserve love.

Teddy and everyone who I love.
don't shoot because
my skin
my age
my neighborhood
my clothing preference
I haven't seen all of want to see
for mistakes done by others who look like me
based on suspicion shoot based on facts
you wouldn't want your daughter son to be

imagine if the world was the other way around
where brown and blacks were the majority
and you were the minority.
Human

dreams

daughter

friend

hopeful

student

loved one

love's nature

music lover
DON'T SHOOT

STOP THE VIOLENCE, GOING ON, IT BRINGS DANGER

Eyewitness News

Police
it can

up

harm innocent people

harm

Jail
Because
Im your
daughter / Son,
Sister / Brother
Mother, Father,
Uncle, Aunt,
Friend!!

When will I ever
be able to walk
down my street
without fear,
fear that they
won't stop me,
Stop me because,
because I'm
walking too fast
because of how
I look
because I'm brown
because I'm a girl

-Melanie Strong ²
Don't shoot
because I am
human and
I only wanted
to know
What that means.
I just wanted to explore the things I could
do, I could feel. I wanted to love, fight,
rule, appreciate... 
& in the end learn from it
all for I could become a better
human being. A happy one.

an "all" one. Constructible
& secure with liberty & uncertainty
that I could do so many

things, but please...
please don't shoot
me.
Don't Shoot Because...

I serve a purpose, just as much you think you do.

-Cristal Trujillo

Esteban Torres
H.S
Because

i'm

innocent
I have dream too...
Alacaz Oduma
Young Color
a different melanin produces

Because

Don't shoot
Don't Shoot
Because,....

I need my dad. He did nothing wrong.

One night my dad was driving. They mistake him for a gang member. He crashed him. He got scared. He crashed and pulled him out. And he was hurt and uncommon and they beat him.
Don't Shoot me BECAUSE...

I LOVE Life
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