Narratives of Gun Violence

Gun violence has been prominent in the news in recent months. This selection of perspectives on gun violence is a starting point for exploring the full story. Some resources contain graphic images and descriptions and are intended for adult audiences.

Conversation Questions
1. How has gun violence in America affected you?
2. What action steps could be taken to reduce gun violence?
3. How do you talk to family and friends about gun violence?

Listen

“Harper High School - Part One” from This American Life
https://goo.gl/B1yW2W

This American Life spent five months at Chicago’s Harper High School to understand what it’s like to live with high-frequency gun violence.

“Shots Fired: Part 1” from Radiolab
https://goo.gl/S6sSwr

This podcast follows the investigations of Ben Montgomery, reporter at the Tampa Bay Times, who collected documents related to officers discharging their weapons from 2009-2014.

Watch

The Interrupters from PBS Home Video
Adult DVDs nonfiction 306.09773111

This documentary features three violence interrupters in Chicago who try to protect their communities.

Explore

“Gun Control Around the World: A Primer” by Jonathan Masters
https://goo.gl/Wf72WT

Compare gun laws in America, Australia, Canada, Israel, the United Kingdom, Norway, and Japan.

“Gun Violence Trends” from Everytown for Gun Safety
https://goo.gl/Kk9xXC

Access up-to-date data about gun violence in America.
Read

*How Long Will I Cry? Voices of Youth Violence* edited by Miles Harvey
Adult nonfiction 364.36 H
This book features stories told by people whose lives have been changed by Chicago gun violence.

“Fatal Police Shootings in 2015 Approaching 400 Nationwide” by Kimberly Kindy
https://goo.gl/TJx1dh
This analysis of police shootings in 2015 includes insights on demographics of the victims.

“Inside an Accused School Shooter’s Mind: A Plot to Kill ‘50 or 60. If I Get Lucky Maybe 150.’” by John Woodrow Cox
https://goo.gl/Urm9wW
This article references social media posts from Jesse Osborne, the accused Townville Elementary School shooter and psychiatric and investigator interviews of Osborne.

“Fatal Errors” by Albert Samaha and Sean Campbell
https://goo.gl/BNi2Yn
What happens when “good guys” with guns mistakenly shoot other “good guys”? This article recounts an instance where one roommate confused another for a burglar. Contains graphic images.

“What I Saw Treating the Victims from Parkland Should Change the Debate on Guns” by Heather Sher
https://goo.gl/Xgv9bD
A radiologist describes treating victims of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and how the AR-15 causes more damaging wounds than handguns.

“The Enormous Economic Cost of Gun Violence” by Michelle Singletary
https://goo.gl/FmtN5g
This perspective piece discusses the economic and societal costs of gun violence.