

# WRITING PROMPTS

These prompts are designed to get you started thinking about gun violence and writing for the stage. Your final submission does not have to adhere to any of these prompts. **What you write should follow where your inspiration and passion leads you.** Think of these exercises as kindling to start the fire of your writing.



**Teachers:** Lesson plans for the following writing prompts start on pg. 31.

## Prompt 1: FROM STATISTICS TO STORIES

Rarely do facts alone move hearts and minds. For that you need a story.

**Take a statistic about gun violence provide below or find one on your own that surprises (or even infuriates) you and write a short moment that attempts to theatricalize it.**

*How can you use metaphor and image to show this statistic in a new dimension on stage? Use your play as a way to help others fully understand a specific statistic about gun violence.*

**These statistics can be a lot to take in.** Remember that you are bringing to light an important topic, but also feel free to check in with your teacher or a friend to decompress.

**100 Americans** are killed by guns **every day** in America.

**15,593 Americans** were killed by guns in **one year** (2017).

**\$229 billion!** That's the cost of gun violence in the US each year.

US war deaths since the Revolutionary War:  
**1.2 million.**  
US gun violence deaths since 1968: **1.5 million.**

There have been more mass shootings at US schools **in the last eighteen years than in the entire twentieth century** (1900-1999).

America has a mass shooting **9 out of 10 days**, on average.

There are **393 million guns** in America. That's more than one gun per man, woman, and child.

**1,297 American children** are killed by guns each year. 5,790 more are injured.

Gun violence is the **#2 killer of young people**, now killing more kids than car accidents.

**150,000+ students** have experienced a shooting at their school since 1997.

57% of teens **live in fear** that there will be a shooting at their school.

Young people (ages 19-25) are hurt by gun violence more than any other age group. **31% of all gun deaths** and nearly 50% of gun homicides **are young people**.

**Young hispanics** (ages 15-19) are **4 times more likely** than young whites to be murdered by guns.

**Young black Americans** (ages 15-19) are **18 times more likely** than young white Americans to be murdered by guns.

**Police shootings** kill 9 times more young black American men (ages 15-32) than young white American men.

**10% of LGBTQ+** students were threatened or injured with a weapon at school in 2015.

Gun violence was the #1 cause of death for LGBTQ+ victims of hate crimes, **responsible for 52% of murders in 2016**.

**Nearly 25% of LGBTQ+ youth attempted suicide at least once in the prior year**, compared to 6% of heterosexual youth. Access to guns makes suicide more lethal for at-risk LGBTQ+ youth.

**6,313 women** were murdered in **domestic violence** involving a gun from 2004 to 2015.

American women are **16 times more likely to be killed with a gun** than are women in other high-income countries.

In households experiencing **domestic violence**, women are **5 times more likely** to be murdered if there is a gun in the house than if there is not.

The **US had the second-highest gun suicide rate in the world in 2016.** Only Greenland had more suicides per capita.

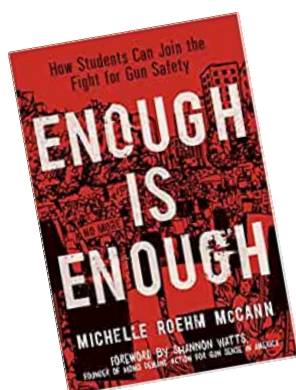
America has less than 5% of the world's population but has **31% of the world's mass shootings.**

**91% of children killed by guns** in high-income countries are American.

America has less than 5% of the world's population but owns **45% of the world's guns.**

**Yemen** has the second-highest gun ownership in the world. It is a war-torn, developing country, **yet America has more than twice as many guns per capita.**

America has the most gun violence of any developed country in the world.  
6x higher than Canada  
7x higher than Sweden  
16x higher than Germany  
21x higher than Australia  
Even among the most violent countries on the planet,  
**America ranks #2 for most gun deaths.**



Statistics compiled by author Michelle Roehm McCann from a number of sources for her book *Enough is Enough: How Students Can Join the Fight for Gun Safety*. Read more about the book on pg. 25.

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