

A brother's hope for a sister's memory

In her brother's eyes, Laura will always be that freckle faced, ginger haired little sister with an open smile. To me Laura's story, the story that her brother hopes will matter, does matter to me. Laura may have lost her battle against the temptations of daily drug and alcohol addictions but her fight does live on. I feel like I can really relate to Laura because I face these same temptations everyday when I hang out with my friends. I hear them talk about how fun it is to get drunk and smoke weed. I find myself thinking about how long I have known my friends and how much they have changed since they started getting into drugs and alcohol. I have seen with my own eyes how alcohol and drugs can affect each of us. I wanted to share with you, how I am making a difference and honoring Laura's memory.

It seems to me that once one of my friends started getting into drugs and alcohol all of them due to peer pressure started doing it too. Now our group of friends is at the point where there are only four of us who don't drink or do drugs. The others who do use have been caught many times with weed in their shoes and vodka in there water bottles at school, ignorant to the consequences they just keep abusing drugs and alcohol. Although I plead with them to stop and think about what they are doing not only to their bodies but their lives and the people whom love them, they refuse to listen to me. Instead they continue to hurt themselves. I know doing drugs and alcohol is only leading them down a bad path of self destruction, failing grades and lots of wasted time at parties every Friday.

The only reason they do it is because our friends do it and they want to fit in, but to me that is no excuse. They just don't realize just how much they are affecting their bodies and the rest of their lives. I know now that they are all addicted to drugs and alcohol. They are now doing anything it takes to get money to fuel there addiction. They even go into the locker rooms and steal ipods and cell phones that they can sell to get money, and they have even been caught doing it. Since middle school this has been going on and it has definitely disappointed me to see my friends choose this life style.

I've learned that sometimes being a friend means you have to love tough or show tough love. You have to be willing to risk your friendship to be able to save your friend and that is what I decided I must do.

One day my friend told me that they had brought weed to school so they could influence one of our other friends to smoke weed with them and even asked if I wanted to smoke too. I was absolutely shocked that they would stoop so low to bring weed to school and try to get another one of our friends to smoke it with them. I decided to turn them in before they had a chance to lure another one of our friends into this awful addiction. I was scared that my friends would find out that I turned them in and that they may not talk to me anymore but I knew I had to be brave and try in my ability, to stop this vicious cycle. Unfortunately, they found out. For awhile some of them didn't talk to me but I knew what I did was right and I knew that I had to do it. I know that under all of that peer pressure they all dislike what they are doing to themselves and their futures and that is why they take drugs. They seem to think it will somehow make everything go away but the only promise drugs offer are to make everything worse.

They have tried to quit so many times but keep giving into the addiction and peer pressure that haunts them. At the age of 15 at least 10 of my friends are complete alcoholics and our completely addicted to weed. Four of them have been in and out of rehab and have been arrested more then 3 times with possession of marijuana, possession of alcohol and for stealing. One day I am afraid my friends are going to end up just like Laura because of their drug and alcohol abuse. I know that the only way to stop them is to keep turning them in and keep reminding them of how much I care about them even if they don't care about themselves right now. What ever decisions my friends make in their lives I will always be there for them but under no circumstances would I ever harm myself or others with drugs or alcohol.

I wanted to conclude by sharing that I hope my story helps others in the same place as I am understand that there is something we can do. Everything in life is a risk but saving lives is absolutely worth the risk.

I wanted to thank you all for the opportunity to write this essay because I am very inspired by Laura's brother Brad and all he has done to ensure that his sister's memory and life matter everyday.

I am very grateful that he wanted to share Laura's story with myself and others in the hopes that it could save others that are heading down the same path.

I can only hope that by continuing to make the choice everyday not use drugs and alcohol and to help my friends by being a friend, that I am honoring Laura's memory and helping her brother's dream of saving other lives from drug and alcohol abuse, come true!