

Hi my name is Anrico Stevenson.

I currently a Jr. at Strawberry Mansion High School. Teen Court has done a lot for me. It has mad me more cautious in what I do. I can say it has also helped me mature. I catch myself not doing as much foolish things in school as I used to. I see myself more focused on work and spending less time on the negative things I used to do in school.

One day we were in class and we had a substitute. All of the kids were running around the room and they started to throw the books out of the window. I made the decision to ask for a pass to another room. I wanted to remove myself from the situation. I am thankful that I learned, to not only be cautious of my actions, but be cautious of the actions of the people around me. Everyone in the room was later suspended for what they did. These are decisions kids have to make everyday. Do I walk down that street? Do I hang with this group of kids? Do I cut school? Teen Court has taught me to put myself in positive situations and not wait for something bad to happen before I act and do the right thing.

I have become more mature through the questioning that goes on in Teen Court. I get a chance to listen to problems that students face and put myself in their shoes. I get to think about what I would have done if I were them. I find myself faced with these same issues in the future but I am prepared to handle them because I have already thought out alternatives. Not only do I get to use questioning for myself but I get to help others see how they could have handled situations better. So many students are used to receiving punishments for every poor action they have, that they don't get a chance to reflect and think about it. Teen Court provides them with a space to be heard and to think. That is something we all need.