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Mr. Gonzales

Period 6

Have you ever wondered why some people do the things they do? Have you ever sat down and counted all the traumatic incidents that we have had here in America? Have you ever wondered how many people are left with scared memories and how many have died in just a couple of hours? Who would have thought a college ground could be so UN safe? One traumatic American event that left hearts scarred for life was the Virginia tech shootings. This event happened on April 16 2007 almost six years ago. There were two different shootings, both at different times and places. The first shooting occurred around 7:15am well the students were on their way to class. According to the New York Times, two students were on their way to class when they were shot and killed at the dormitory. Two hours later thirty-one more students were killed including some professors. Many more students were left wounded by the “Gun man” Both shootings took place in different places of the school campus. Students and professors were not only in danger they were left with a horrified memory. The first on the scene were the emergency workers at the school they were the first to help those students who were wounded. The police arrived a couple minutes after the emergency calls were made by the students and the emergency workers. It didn’t take long for the police to realize who the killer was. They just didn’t know why he did it; they didn’t know what to think. The Virginia Tech Shootings is a horrible memory left in those who were the witnesses and those who were wounded by the killer. This is something that I would never be able to forget if I were them.

At the start of the event police officers, rescue workers were in stage of complete confusion. None of them had an idea where to start looking for the Gun man. They didn’t know if they should start where the first shooting took place, in the second one or in a different place. Police officers ran into the buildings risking their lives to save others. They had the buildings surrounded by a police squad with weapons. Evidence of this can be seen in the “New York Times News” when Michael Mather covers the shooting of 33 people dead on the spot. He asserts “The shooting took place in two different places; officers were getting 911 calls from different places by 10:15. They knew they had to separate into groups that will cover all places the shootings took place in and the places that shootings can take place. They surrounded the school within minutes of the calls. “(Virginia Tech Shootings- The New York Times.” Times Topics- the New York Times) once they received the calls stating there was a man outside the halls with a gun the police rushed over to the university. Once they heard there were already two girls pronounced shot they rushed over an ambulance. Sadly the girls didn’t survive they were died instantly. Although the police were trying their hardest to keep as much people as they can save they were just too late to keep the two girls save. Police were trying to set traps to catch the gun man, the gun man out smarted them. While the teachers warned students over the announcements the gun man would also hear them. At the moment police had the buildings on lock down until the gun man was caught. After he was done shooting the first two girls, he returned back to his room and recorded his confession clip. He mailed it to the NBC between the shootings explaining why he did what he did. Investigators found the video clip where Cho the Gun man confessed why he became a murder. This evidence became the basis for how the police officers were the first ones to get a call when administrators found out about the first shootings. “(At least 33 killed in Va. Tech Massacre” CBSNews.CBS Interactive, 11 Feb. 2009. Web.15)”

Virginia Tech Instructors were worried about what was going on since they had never experienced or witnessed anything so tragic. The instructors tried to make sure that every student was safe. They tried their hardest to keep them away from the gun man. Instructors and students who witnessed it now have the terrifying memory of the incident that happened that day. Instructors asked the students to stay put in their dorms. Classes were canceled once the first shooting occurred. Not all the students got to hear the announcements and went off to class like if it were a normal day. Without having any thought that there would be a killer on the loose in campus. This idea is supported by the New York Times News in which the reporter states “while some students were in class they started to hear big bangs and the instructors would look into the hall and would see the gunman standing on the other side of the hall” The instructors had just enough time to have the students take cover before the gunman would reach the room. The bangs got louder and louder as he got closer to the room. Both students and instructors started to freak out they stated that the witnesses would see the gunman walk into the rooms without saying a word and with a straight look on his face. Witnesses say that he would march in and out of the classrooms carrying big loaded weapons. Students started to send text messages amongst themselves warning each other about the gunman. For those students that went to class the instructors had them take cover under a desk. Students sat with their head crouched down between their legs frightened. New York Times also stated that the instructors did whatever it took them to keep the students as safe as possible. They would protect the students by standing by the door and risking their life for the students. By the instructors stood at the door the students had time to escape the scene. The instructors took responsibility for being in charge of keeping the students safe. One student named “Garren Evans” who was and survived said “One of the worst things a human can smell is death.” He stated that when the gunman walked into the room all he would hear would be “Bang, Bang, and Bang” he also stated that the gunman would just keeping shooting everything and everyone that was on the floor taking cover. It was this support that created it significance that the Virginia Tech Instructors were very worried for the current students; they couldn’t do anything about what was going on at the time. “(Virginia Tech Shootings- The New York Times.” Times Topics- the New York Times)

Cho Seung Hui a student at the Virginia Tech University had made the plans to kill before the actual shooting, the killing was planned months before stated the New York Times News. He went to buy weapons to make his attack and was staying in a hotel until the morning of April16. Cho made his move into the west Amber Johnson Hall and killed a girl who was in her dorm he then shot and killed another who went to help. Those were the first two killed at 7:15am. He then went into Norris Hall South Korean in the university where he committed the mass murder of thirty-one people and wounded twenty-five others in the shooting rampage. This is now known as the Virginia Tech Massacre. Cho then killed himself after law enforcement officers breached the doors of the building where he had killed and injured the majority of his victims.

Investigators have still many questions about Cho Seung Hui. They still don’t know why he did it; they noticed that with time Cho Seung Hui became a complete different person he changed. Cho went from being a very quick guy in the school to a massive murder. When Cho was attended High School, his fellow classmates claim he was very shy and very smart. He didn’t speak very much and always had good grades. His Personality changed once he became a junior in college, his grades went quickly went down. Cho had been suffering anxiety disorder known as selective mutism in middle school and depression ever since. Investigators believed that that was the reason for why he did what he did, Cho didn’t receive the same treatment as others did he felt left out most of the time. Cho didn’t have any friends to count on or to talk to. “He liked to be alone” another classmate quoted. Vise, Daniel De. “Virginia Tech Police Officer, Gunman Killed.” Washington post. The Washington Post, 09 Dec. 2011. Web 15 May 2012. They seem to think that his Anxiety Disorder was what caused everything to happen that day. Cho was tired of being ignored, that’s why he became a murder he wanted to be remembered for something big.

The Virginia Tech Shootings on April 16, 2007 was a Traumatic American Event that left all Americans hurt. In a collage campus so many people killed and many injured. This leaves us wondering what the world has become now. This American memory has scared most people who were there to witness it such as the students, police men, the instructors, families and emergency workers. Virginia Tech Shootings are remembered every year since 2007 when it happened. The students and staff gather together and remember the people who lost their lives. They all come together and pray for those families who lost a loved one. Ever since this massacre happened in Virginia Tech it is evident that the students and teachers got closer to one another and now they remember their fellow classmates that were killed April 16, 2007.

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