

Newspapers in Education encourages you to become more aware of your surroundings and reduce risks by participating in

# SITUATION AWARENESS

## >> Speak Up

Situation awareness and personal safety is the responsibility of everyone! It could save your life or the life of someone you care about. Law enforcement cannot be everywhere at once, their job is to arrest people after breaking the law; prevention is up to you.

In any situation that may arise, speaking up is just as important as being aware. If you see someone becoming a victim, speak up. Don't ignore the situation, don't assume someone else has already done something, speak up, because the death of another individual that you could have saved if you had just said something may haunt you always. Pay attention to what is going on at home, in school, and in your community. Whether it be your best friend, or someone you don't know walking down the hall at school. If an unsafe situation arises, stand up, and speak up. Don't let that kid bully another in the hall, don't let your boyfriend get you drunk and take advantage of you, and don't let your best friend text while driving you home from the movies. Let them know that you are not going to be responsible for their death or your own death. If they don't listen to you, go to someone that might have more power than you, like a teacher, parent, or sibling.

In any instance that happens, it might work, and it might not, but you will know deep down inside that you did take a stand, and you did speak up. The world doesn't change overnight. It changes one small act of kindness at a time.

**Activity** Come up with 5 ways that you can increase your situation awareness. Make a collage, draw or paint a picture, write an essay or use whatever medium is best for you to depict the 5 ways that you can and will make a difference in your life and the lives of others by using situation awareness.