

**Oregon PSR's 2017 Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship
Honorable Mention - Brittany Ngia, Lakeridge High School, Lake Oswego, OR**

America's Silencer

America, a pandemic has gripped our nation
Lives ripped from the schools and streets and theaters
2015 bore more mass shootings than days
We are fired upon and the attacker is us
the headlines blare the unfortunate news and
we bow our heads and tsk at the tragedy
but take no action to achieve the peace people seek
in a nation failing to prevent a waste of life

in ten years, 301,797 Americans saw the barrel of a gun
before they saw no more
blind as the people who refuse to admit:
33,000 gun-deaths per year makes gun-violence
an epidemic more expansive than the Ebola outbreak
that killed about a third of those shot down
a surge of aid went to contain Ebola, yet
bullets sprawl to every corner

America, disrupt the pattern that has bound our nation
Lead our people to a healthier state by:
Providing competent services for mental health
Teach the children basic morality and danger of guns
Without media and games villainizing them first
Slash the 20-year shackles on CDC
Holding back funds for gun-violence research
That costs less than pellets ripping through lives

Lobby and petition for common-sense measures
Force the government's hand to reduce gun violence
Close the loopholes of uninformed gun dealers
Distributing weapons in the hands of society killers
to those who cling to the Second Amendment:
Responsibilities for safety are attached to any right
The right to own a vehicle comes with rules and regulations
The right to own a firearm comes with the same conditions