

3rd Place

7th-8th Grade

23rd Annual Student Essay Contest | Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum

Giving Up is Never the Option:
Why the Oklahoma City Bombing Never Failed to Have Hope

America has experienced many tragedies, yet one catastrophic event that stands out as significantly tragic is the Oklahoma City Bombing which was one of the largest domestic terrorist attacks that occurred on April 19, 1995. This tragic event had brought American people together and is still remembered today. The Oklahoma City Bombing has never failed to demonstrate perseverance, hope, and great determination.

In an interview the son of an Oklahoma City Bombing victim named Ryan Whicher said “tough things happen to kids, adults, everyone every day and either use all that pain and agony to give up or you can use it as a motivator to know tomorrow can be better” this quote illustrates the determination of those who’ve lost people in the bombing and to keep on remembering them. The Oklahoma City Bombing still gives us hope today because although Ryan Whicher lost his father in the bombing he still is hopeful, and continues to not give up to this day.

The reaction to the Oklahoma City Bombing has inspired me to have hopefulness even when times are hard. As of today, social media use has rapidly skyrocketed where young people's lives mostly revolve around it. Because of social media, bullying within and outside school has gotten out of hand tearing people’s confidence and self esteem down. Many boys and girls are comparing themselves to these perfect people online and feel they will never live up to the standards that seem to be put on them.

The Oklahoma City Bombing brought many of the community together, although the standards many young people are put under make them start to give up on their self worth. People give up when they compare themselves to others because in their eyes they will never be good enough, but Ryan Whicher’s quote reminds us that as long as we remain determined, we are strong and should never give up. I hope today we can put an end to the hatred in the world and stop the tearing down of one another. The Oklahoma City Bombing has demonstrated perseverance and that for anyone, no matter who they are, there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

In conclusion, the Oklahoma City Bombing will never fail to demonstrate its hopefulness, and the great determination many survivors and people have shown. This tragic event has inspired me to have hope and to not give up. I will not let somebody tear me down as it has for many young people. When people visit the memorial I hope they feel the same feeling I felt when I went, the feeling of hope.