

Will Reed

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The Days of Thousands

About two months ago, my film teacher asked the class to create a video to create awareness about the Opioid epidemic. I set out to do just that, in the way I deemed the most necessary. I thought to myself, “What would be the best way to make others feel what all these victims felt?” I realized that there was no better way than to show everyone what these people go through. My video simply provides a mere glimpse into the life of an Opioid user. It timelapses the experiences and the reaction of a broken kid. Broken by stress, a dysfunctional relationship, and a misguided addiction, he finds his relief the only way he knows how. Soon, Opioids consume his life. The more stress there is, the more pills he takes. Finally, it all catches up to him. The pills consume him. His body buckles, his heart stops, and he collapses. This is a story we hear far too often. Some take Opioids to relieve stress, others do it simply for the high. Either way, we are losing thousands of men women and children every year. Yet, nobody knows about it. We blow it off as a simple recreational drug. To us, if someone dies from Opioids, they were a misguided drug addict. We think they were too stupid or too far gone to ever come back. We view them as the crack addicts, the heroin users, and the cocaine snorters. We fail to realize some of these people are just trying to survive. They find relief in the consumption of a pill. We fail to realize some of them don’t do it for the high, they do it for the medication. See, some of these people are simply trying to medicate themselves. It could be people you thought seemed perfectly normal, or it could be the obvious “druggo” that everyone knows about. Either way, it needs to stop. It is far too common that Opioids are abused. Many people do not even know

about the dangers of this drug. Many see it as a common thing. The fact is that one of the leading causes of death is barely mentioned in social media or the news. Most importantly, very few people know about the effects. In this video, I tried to show just that, the effects. It's a shocking thing really, the way your life spirals downhill. It is like the more you take, the deeper of a hole you dig. CBS News reports, "The CDC identified 15,466 deaths from heroin overdoses in 2016, while 20,145 deaths were caused by fentanyl or other synthetic Opioids." We see so many drug prevention programs that talk about cigarettes, heroine, meth, ect. How many do we hear about Opioids? Slim to none. Not only did I want to bring awareness to this otherwise silent drug, but I wanted to show just how harmful it is. The pain that the main character experiences in my video, pales in comparison to what the real victims go through. We should not turn a blind eye to this epidemic, we should face it head on. Opioids need to be stopped, and this video is one of the first steps to that.