

James Anderson – Third Place Essay
Fairbanks Middle School
Morenci, Arizona

Why Should I Care About Elder Abuse?

Elder abuse is a big problem in the world today. We should all be more aware of what is happening, and we should try to fight and stop it. Elderly abuse is when someone is abusing a person who is older than sixty years old. There are many types of abuse, and there are also many signs to watch for to notice what is going on.

There are four types of elderly abuse: neglect, physical, financial and emotional. Neglect is when someone leaves the elderly person alone or forgets about them. It is also when someone doesn't give them the medicines they need. This also includes when their family doesn't visit them very often. Physical abuse is when someone is hitting or hurting the elderly person. It is also when they are hitting or hurting the elderly person so they can make them do something. Financial abuse is when a person tries to steal from the elderly people or pretends to be a place that needs donations or something, but it's actually just a scam. It is also when they make the elderly person sign something they don't understand and take advantage of the elderly person's money or use it for themselves. Emotional abuse is when someone makes an elderly person sad a lot. They might harass the elderly person or make them feel so shameful that they will do something out of guilt.

There are signs to tell if an elderly person is getting abused. If a person is being neglected, they will be sad and lonely. Or if a person is being physically abused, there might be a bruise in the shape of a handprint or a bruise that's covering half their arm. Another sign for financial is them losing money quickly or not having enough money to buy necessities like food and water. Also there are signs for emotional abuse like if they are sad a lot or stop doing something that they normally do. For instance, they normally take a walk everyday but suddenly stop with no explanation.

It is up to us to help our elders from being abused. We should always watch for the signs and report any concerns that we have that they might be being abused. Don't assume someone else has already reported it; always report it. If you see an elder being attacked, immediately call 911. If the attack has already happened call 1-877-767-2385. We should visit our grandparents and great-grandparents often because otherwise we might not notice if abuse is happening. We can also visit nursing homes to befriend other elderly people that aren't being visited or don't have any living family members. Every one out of ten Americans that are over the age of sixty are being abused. Elderly abuse could happen to any of us when we grow older. We should always try and stop elderly abuse.