

Hello, my name is Audrey White, and I am an upcoming junior at Tascosa High School in Amarillo, Texas. I have been involved in the Crime Stoppers program since freshman year but have just recently been chosen to move up and be given the position of ambassador. I take on this responsibility with great pride as I bring such amazing ideas and safety back to my own campus.

I've decided to write about an AISD success story that is still very much in the works but has benefitted our community so much already! My Student Crime Stoppers director had the brilliant idea to use our very own students to help stop the illegal distribution of tobacco products to minors in Amarillo. He decided to speak to each school's liaison officers and set up a weekly sort of sting operation to bust local stores. After school, two students attend along with two officers in an undercover car and hit stores all over Amarillo with dinner provided.

I went on one with my own officers from Tascosa. Once the tobacco products have been purchased with the money provided by the program the officers will go into the store and write the vendor a ticket. If a store gets three tickets the store will be shut down for a year. I interviewed the head liaison from my school and this is what he had to say "Our entire school pays tremendously from the disruption that vaping causes from the students that are constantly thinking about their next hit off of the vape instead of focusing on school. It is by far our largest discipline issue in the school. By hitting the dealers, I believe it cuts down on kids having vapes tremendously. I'm interested in seeing what another year of this will do for our schools."

I think these operations are extremely helpful and have made and will continue to make a great impact on the communities all over the panhandle. The Crime Stoppers program is full of extremely intelligent and qualified people, and I think this idea is just one of many amazing efforts to benefit all of Texas and to protect our children.