



Dear Teacher:

Thank you for taking the time to involve your 7th and 8th grade students in the 2021 **“Do the Write Thing” Challenge**. Starting this fall, you will be joined by thousands of other teachers, both in person and online, from across the United States in a coordinated, unique effort to give students the opportunity to give a voice on the impact of youth violence on their lives and to make personal commitments to reduce violence and bullying. This program can make a very positive difference in your relationship with your students and help reduce the level of violence and bullying in your school. One of the things students have expressed is their frustration and their need to have a release as a coping mechanism. In the currently challenging learning and living environment, Do the Write Thing helps to give them that opportunity. As one of our DtWT participating teachers has noted, “The *Do the Write Thing Challenge* Program is responsible for one of the most important things that happened in during all the years I have been a teacher. After the children had the opportunity to write on the issue of violence, discussion in the classroom became open and extraordinarily emotional. The ultimate result was positive beyond a teacher’s wildest expectations.”

In July of 2021, if your student is selected as a National Ambassador, you will be invited by the **National Campaign to Stop Violence** to attend the **“Do the Write Thing” Challenge** National Recognition Week in Washington, D.C. (travel and accommodations included). During previous National Recognition Weeks, “Do the Write Thing” National Ambassadors have met with a United States Supreme Court Justice, the United States Secretary of Education, the Attorney General of the United States, the United States Secretary of the Interior, Members of Congress and other prominent Americans to discuss the problem of youth violence. In addition, the students were honored at an embassy reception hosted by the Ambassador from the State of Kuwait to the United States and the book of their writings was placed in the Library of Congress, ensuring that the student’s words will be available to all. For more information about the National Recognition Week please go to the national website, www.dtw.org.

Enclosed is the Teacher’s Packet, which explains this year’s **“Do the Write Thing Challenge”** in more detail. This packet includes information about program rules, entry deadlines, selection criteria, classroom discussion topics and student recognition. All of this information can also be downloaded **at our local DtWT website, www.dtwtx.org**. **Note that student writings are to be submitted to our offices by January 31, 2021. Our email address is Juv-DTWT@traviscountytx.gov.**

Sincerely,

Creschenda L. Horton

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