



October 15, 2020

Dear Superintendent:

I am grateful for your leadership in education and earnestly ask you to encourage your middle or intermediate school principals to join the 2020-2021 **Do the Write Thing** Texas Challenge. This youth academic and anti-violence program helps equip students with the relational tools necessary to stop violence in their schools, homes and communities. It satisfies TEKS mandates for English/Language Arts(including Expository Writing), Social Studies and Health/PE.

Last year, over 2,300 students from 8 school districts and 25 schools in the San Antonio area participated in the Challenge. The young authors wrote about the causes and impact of violence on their lives as well as their proposed solutions to reduce violence in their schools, homes and communities.

The Challenge has prepared a five day expository lesson plan with resources for teachers to lead thoughtful discussion on the issues before the seventh and eighth graders prepare their compositions. The Challenge's Community Reader Volunteers Committee will select one male and one female school finalist for each school that submits 25 or more essays with a parent consent form. The selected writings will be published and the finalists will be honored at a special recognition ceremony.

In the past years, school finalists, their parents, teachers, principals and superintendents are honored at a Recognition Ceremony and Reception. The male and female National Finalists, their teacher, and a parent get honored at the Do the Write Thing National Recognition Week in Washington, D.C. This year due to the Pandemic things looked very different, but indeed the finalist and their families still were recognized in a safe, yet memorable way. The finalist received swag bags, news media time and received a laptop each. In addition they were mailed yard signs of recognition and care packets to their home from Washington DC.

Your involvement is vital to the success of the Challenge. Please accept this invitation, and encourage the schools in your district to participate. Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the **Do the Write Thing** office at (210) 335-2531 or (210)335-8540.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Toni Arteaga". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Antonia "Toni" Arteaga
57th District Court Judge Chair, Bexar County
Do the Write Thing Challenge

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