



Utah's Challenge to Do the Write Thing!

Utah Board of Juvenile Justice • Utah State Capitol Suite E330 • Salt Lake City, UT 84114
Phone 801-538-1031 • Fax 801-538-1024

2019-2020 INSTRUCTIONS FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS

Thank you for involving your 7th and 8th grade students in **Utah's 2020 Do the Write Thing Challenge** ("the Challenge"). All across America, students are rising to the occasion and doing something to end youth violence. The Challenge offers middle school students the opportunity to examine the impact of youth violence in their lives and to communicate in writing what they think should be done to change the culture of violence.

The Challenge, spearheaded by the National Campaign to Stop Violence, emphasizes personal responsibility by encouraging students to make a commitment to do something about the problems related to youth violence. The program ultimately seeks to give students the opportunity to break the cycle of violence in their homes, schools, and neighborhoods. Your involvement and support are crucial to the success of the Challenge in Utah.

Utah's 20th Anniversary

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Challenge in Utah!

IT'S NO LONGER NECESSARY TO MAKE MULTIPLE COPIES OF WRITING SAMPLES!!!

Please carefully review the following materials before presenting to the Challenge to your students. This packet includes information necessary to be sure your students' writing samples will not be disqualified from the Challenge.

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Challenge Rules- Writing Sample Details

- Students may use any form of written expression (e.g., essays, poems, or songs), as long as the language is positive and not derogatory.
- Only one entry per student per year.
- All entries must be the work of only one student.
- At a minimum, student entries **must address these three questions:**
 - **How has youth violence affected my life?**
 - **What are the causes of youth violence?**
 - **What can I do about youth violence?**

Writing samples that do not address these questions will not be advanced in the selection process.
- Essays should be 500 to 1000 words in length. Poetry or song entries may be shorter.
- Entries must be in English.
- Proper citation is required if the student uses a quote or another person's materials in his or her entry. *Writing samples based upon plagiarism will not be advanced in the selection process.*
- Entries must be typed or written legibly on 8-1/2" x 11" paper. Only one side of the paper may be used. Pages should be numbered.
- To ensure anonymity in the writing sample review process, **do not include personal information (e.g., name, school, teacher, etc.) on the actual writing sample.** *Personal information should only be included on the Student Entry Form.*
- The provided Student Entry Form must accompany each student submission and both the student and the parent/guardian must sign it. *Entries without a signed Student Entry Form will not be advanced in the selection process.*
- Editing of content, grammar or spelling by someone other than the student is not permitted. Grammar and spelling are *not* considered in the scoring matrix used by the Challenge judges.
- Only original student-written entries are eligible for submission.

Teachers: Due to the sensitive nature of the Challenge topics please remember to review all writing samples and assess for potential issues such as ongoing abuse or suicidal ideation. Take appropriate professional action as necessary.

Challenge Rules- Collection & Submission Details

- Teachers are to collect ALL writing samples for submission.
 - All writing samples are eventually sent to the National Campaign to Stop Violence.
- Teachers are to select the top 50% of entries from male students and the top 50% of entries from female students from each class period.
- Teachers are to create a submission packet for each class period.
 - Clearly identify which writing samples were selected as the top 50% for each class period.
 - ALL entries should have a Student Entry Form (one per student).
 - **Please do not use staples!** Instead, use a paper clip to secure each entry to its Student Entry Form.
- Teachers are to mail ALL class period submission packets together in one package.
- Teachers are to include one Teacher Survey Form with their package.
- (Optional) Teachers are to submit one Postage Reimbursement Request Form.

EXAMPLE

Note: It's no longer necessary to make multiple copies of writing samples!!!

- Ms. Allen's 2nd period class has 34 students- 20 females and 14 males.
 - All 34 students have a signed Student Entry Form.
 - Writing samples don't include the student's personal information- such information is only on Student Entry Form.
 - Individual writing sample pages are numbered for each student.
- Using paperclips (not staples!) Ms. Allen organizes all 34 writing samples so that each student's Student Entry Form is attached to their work.
- Ms. Allen selects the top 10 writing samples written by female students and the top 7 writing samples written by male students.
- Ms. Allen clearly identifies which writing samples were selected as the top 50% for the class period.
- Ms. Allen prepares all 34 writing samples to be mailed to UBJJ.
- Ms. Allen does the same for her other class periods.
- Ms. Allen includes all class period submission packets in one package to be mailed to UBJJ.
- Ms. Allen includes one Teacher Survey Form in the package and sends one Postage Reimbursement Request Form (optional) in via email.

Submission Deadline

Entry submission deadline is Thursday, December 12, 2019. Entries must be postmarked no later than this date in order to be accepted. Please use the following address based on servicer:

US Postal Service

Utah Board of Juvenile Justice
State Capitol Complex
East Building, Suite E330
PO Box 142330
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2330

FedEx

Utah Board of Juvenile Justice
350 N. State Street
East Building, Room E330
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

UPS

Utah Board of Juvenile Justice
350 N. State Street #E330
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Teacher Postage Reimbursement

Postage reimbursement is available for teachers submitting students' writing samples. Itemized receipts and Postage Reimbursement Request Form are required. See form for further instructions.

Selection Criteria

Encourage students to describe what they feel are the causes of youth violence and offer *specific* suggestions about what they as individuals can do to reduce youth violence in their homes, schools, and neighborhoods. Personal responsibility for responding to the problem of youth violence should be emphasized. Students who share personal experiences about the impact of youth violence on their lives and the lives of their peers consistently receive top scores. Judges will be looking at how well students present their views on these matters and scoring will be based on the following criteria:

- Question Responsiveness (Encourage students to address all 3 questions!)
- Content and Ideas
- Originality, Voice, Honesty

Each writing sample will be read a minimum of three times by students from local universities. The writing samples with the highest average scores from that first round of reading will be forwarded to members of the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice for review. Board members will then select final entries for VIP judging.

Grammar and spelling *will not* be used as criteria for judging entries, as this is an anti-violence initiative and the priority is to encourage students to examine the aspects of youth violence.

Classroom Discussion

Classroom discussion is not mandatory for participation in the Challenge. However, over the years it has been found that participating students and their teachers gain a lot from the connections that result from exchanges about the impact of youth violence that occur in pre-

writing classroom discussions. Teachers relate their amazement at the openness and honesty of classroom discussions. These discussions present excellent opportunities to identify and prevent problems before they reach a critical level.

Many teachers whose classes have participated in the Challenge have invited speakers knowledgeable about youth violence issues to lead pre-writing discussions. Other teachers have provided their students with selected readings or newspaper articles about youth violence in advance of the discussion to stimulate thought. Speakers or articles that emphasize personal responsibility on the part of students for responding to the problems of youth violence prove to be particularly useful.

Consider the following sample questions to generate discussion among your students before they prepare their entries for the Challenge:

- How does youth violence affect your daily life?
- Where are you confronted with youth violence? Your home? Your school? Your neighborhood?
- What are some of the causes of youth violence in your community?
- What can you as an individual do to reduce youth violence in your community?

Where to look for resources:

- The National Campaign to Stop Violence website, www.dtw.org, has national resources that are helpful and available for free.
- [Video: Do the Write Thing 20 years](#)- produced in 2015 to celebrate the 20th national anniversary of Do the Write Thing. This video describes the program and past winners from other states discuss their experiences.
- [Video: Do the Write Thing 2015](#)- youth writers from other states discuss a variety of topics related to violence including bullying, racism, and abuse.
- Utah's Do the Write Thing Challenge website, <http://bit.ly/dtw-utah>, includes several lesson plans and examples of writing samples from prior years.

Common Core Standards

As of August 2011, the Do the Write Thing Challenge has been reviewed by a panel of highly qualified public school teachers. The Challenge has been aligned to meet all of the English Language Arts Standards in Writing for Grades 7 and 8. (Standards W.7.1 through W.7.10 and W.8.1 through W.8.10.) Please note that we have determined Standards W.7.2 and W.8.2 to only be applicable to nonfiction submissions.

Writing is the core component of the Do the Write Thing Challenge. After classroom discussions about youth violence, participating middle school students are asked by their teachers to make a commitment not to be involved in violence and provide written answers to three questions:

1. How has violence affected my life?
2. What are the causes of youth violence?
3. What can I do to reduce youth violence?

The Do the Write Thing Challenge is flexible, allowing for adaptation as needed by school districts and individual classrooms. Thus, the writing component of the Challenge can cover significant portions of the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts:

- Writing
 - Writing samples that include a narrative component, such as those that address the first question, can fulfill 3.A-E for grades 7 and 8.
 - Writing samples that address the second two questions can fulfill 1.A-E, 2.A-F, 7, 8, and 9 for grades 7 and 8.
 - Writing samples can be used to fulfill 4 for grades 7 and 8.
 - Depending on the level of teacher involvement in students' writing for the Do the Write Thing Challenge, the program can be used to fulfill 5 (peer review), 6 (technology), and 10 (writing over a range of time and revision) for grades 7 and 8.
- Speaking and Listening
 - Classroom discussions, before and after presenting DtWT can be used to fulfill 1.B-D for grades 7 and 8.

7 th Grade	8 th Grade
Writing	
7.1.A-E	8.1.A-E
7.2.A-F	8.2.A-F
7.3.A-E	8.3.A-E
7.4	8.4
7.5	8.5
7.6	8.6
7.7	8.7
7.8	8.8
7.9	8.9
7.10	8.10
Speaking & Listening	
7.1.B-D	8.1.B-D

Student Recognition

State Level Recognition

The Utah Board of Juvenile Justice hosts a recognition luncheon in late April (usually the last Friday of the month) to honor the top state finalists and announce the national finalists. The state finalists, their parents/guardians, teacher and principal are invited to attend the recognition luncheon. *Travel expenses will be covered by the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice for finalists and invited guests who live more than 50 miles away from Salt Lake County- per to State's travel policy.*

At the luncheon, the two national finalists (one girl and one boy) and the two national finalist runners-up (one girl and one boy) are announced. A book of all the top finalists' writing samples is distributed at the luncheon, in the community, and to business and governmental leaders as well as to the national Do the Write Thing Campaign. The book is also published online at the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice's website.

National Level Recognition

The two national finalists, along with their teacher and one parent/guardian are invited by the National Campaign to Stop Violence to attend the National Recognition Week in Washington, DC, in July 2020.

The majority of the cost for National Recognition Week activities is paid by the Kuwait-America Foundation and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science. The people of Kuwait have donated money to the Do the Write Thing Campaign for over 20 years. This has been done to say thank you to the American people for the liberation of Kuwait in 1991. The Utah Board of Juvenile Justice covers other travel costs.

During past National Recognition Weeks, national finalists have met with a United States Supreme Court Judge, the United States Secretary of Education, the Attorney General of the United States,

the United States Secretary of Interior, Members of Congress and many notable celebrities to discuss the problem of youth violence. In addition, students have been honored at embassy receptions hosted by the State of Kuwait. A highlight of the National Recognition Week is placing a book of the writing samples of the 2020 National Finalists in the Library of Congress, ensuring that the students' words will be available to all and for future generations.

Submission Checklist

- Collect all student writing samples for submission
 - Ensure personal information is omitted from writing samples
 - Ensure pages are numbered
 - Remove any staples
- Select top 50% of writing samples from each class period
- Ensure all writing samples have signed Student Entry Form attached by paperclip
- Complete Teacher Survey Form
 - Note: Only one survey necessary per teacher, not per class period*
- (Optional) Complete Postage Reimbursement Request Form and provide necessary documentation
- Mail writing samples- postmark deadline December 12, 2019

Challenge Timeline

- May-September: Challenge instructions made available
- August-December: Classroom discussions and writing
- December: Writing sample submission
- January-March: Writing sample judging
- March: Top finalists notified and invited to luncheon
- April: Luncheon; National Finalists announced
- July: National recognition in Washington, DC



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2019-2020 STUDENT ENTRY FORM

Required for each student submission

To avoid disqualification, students and their parent/guardian must fill out and sign this form.
Please print legibly in black/blue ink.

Student's First Name: _____ Student's Last Name: _____
Please print legibly! *Please print legibly!*

Student's Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Student's Phone Number: _____ Student's Gender: Female Male

Student's School: _____

Student's Teacher: _____ Student's Grade: _____

Student and Parent/Guardian Consent Statement

The National Campaign to Stop Violence, and the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice (UBJJ), which sponsor the Do the Write Thing Challenge nationally and in Utah, will publish selected student writing samples and quotations in books and in discussion papers on youth violence both in print and electronic format. Before publishing your writing, the National Campaign and UBJJ require your written consent and the written consent of your parent or guardian. Finalists will be invited to recognition events in Utah and/or Washington DC where the media may be present. This may result in photographs, video and audio being recorded that may be broadcast through print, television, radio and internet. If you and your parent/guardian agree to permit the National Campaign and UBJJ to publish your writing and use your photograph for promotional purposes, please read the following statement and sign below:

We agree to give ownership of the attached student writing to the National Campaign to Stop Violence and the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice, so that it may be considered for recognition and published. We also understand that photographs or videos may be used for future promotional purposes.

_____/_____/_____
Student's Signature Parent's/Guardian's Signature Date

_____/_____
Parent's/Guardian's Name- *Please print legibly!* Parent's/Guardian's E-mail Address- *Please print legibly!*



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2019-2020 TEACHER SURVEY FORM

Only one copy required for each teacher

Teacher's First Name: _____ Teacher's Last Name: _____

Teacher's Home Address*: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Teacher's Cell Number*: _____ Teacher's Email*: _____

Teacher's School: _____ School's Principal: _____

** Some of the Challenge preparation/contact occurs during school breaks and it is crucial that we be able to contact you.*

1. Did you have a classroom discussion about youth violence before your students prepared their writing samples for the 2020 Challenge? Yes No

If yes, how many total students participated in the discussion? _____

2. How many of your students *prepared* writing entries for the 2020 Challenge? _____

3. How many of your students *submitted* writing entries for the 2020 Challenge? _____

4. In your opinion, which were the top three causes of youth violence identified by your students?

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Media | <input type="checkbox"/> Poverty |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peer Pressure/Gangs | <input type="checkbox"/> Weapon Availability | <input type="checkbox"/> Jealousy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor Parenting/Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> War |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stress/Anger/Depression | <input type="checkbox"/> Prejudice/Intolerance | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Nature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs/Alcohol | <input type="checkbox"/> Low Self-esteem/image | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce |

Other (please explain): _____

5. In your opinion, what were the top three solutions to youth violence identified by your students?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____



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2019-2020 POSTAGE REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST FORM

Optional

Please complete form and include itemized receipts.
Form and itemized receipt(s) can be submitted via mail or fax to UBJJ (contact info above).
Documents can also be emailed to dtwt@utah.gov.

TEACHER'S INFORMATION

Teacher's First Name: _____ Teacher's Last Name: _____

Teacher's Mailing Address*: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Teacher's Phone Number: _____ Teacher's Email: _____

Teacher's School: _____

** Address where reimbursement check should be sent.*

REIMBURSEMENT INFORMATION

Date packaged was shipped and name of servicer: _____

Reimbursement amount requested: _____

Make check payable to: _____

PLEASE INCLUDE ITEMIZED RECEIPT(S)

Requester's Signature: _____ Date: _____

CCJJ use only

CCJJ Official Approval: _____ Date: _____