



# STATE OF UTAH

GARY R. HERBERT  
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
84114-2220

SPENCER J. COX  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

May 2019

Dear Educator,

The Office of the Governor and the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice invite you and your students to participate in Utah's Twentieth Annual *Do the Write Thing Challenge*.

The Challenge offers 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students across the State an opportunity to examine the impact of youth violence on their lives and then write what they think should be done to change the culture of violence. The Challenge encourages students to take personal responsibility to make a commitment and do something about the problem. The program ultimately strives to help them break the cycle of violence in their homes, schools and neighborhoods.

One boy and one girl will be selected, along with their teacher and a parent, to represent Utah at the National Recognition Week in Washington, D.C. in July 2020. Top essays will be published and placed in the Library of Congress. In addition, all twenty contest finalists, their teacher and parents will be invited to attend a recognition luncheon where the top two authors will be announced in April 2020.

Teachers are encouraged to incorporate the Challenge into their regular classroom curriculum. Lesson plans can be found on the website at [www.juvenile.utah.gov](http://www.juvenile.utah.gov). Rules, entry forms and additional information are also available on this website. The following is a list of ideas for the classroom:

- English: use as an essay or poetry-writing assignment;
- Health: discuss personal safety and well-being of others;
- Civics: conduct an exercise on personal and civic responsibility;
- History: use an historical perspective to examine youth violence.

The deadline for entries is **December 12, 2019**. The 2019 Challenge involved more than 2,200 students participating in classroom discussions about youth violence with more than 900 submitting essays from 21 different teachers. We look forward to increasing these numbers in the 2020 Challenge.

If you have any questions, please contact Cuong Nguyen at [cvnguyen@utah.gov](mailto:cvnguyen@utah.gov) or call (801) 538-1739.

We encourage your students' participation and look forward to this year's Challenge.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Herbert  
Governor