



## Office of the Governor

### State of Utah

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.  
Governor

GARY R. HERBERT  
Lieutenant Governor

October 2007

Dear Educator:

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

The *Challenge* allows 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students the opportunity to examine the impact of youth violence on their lives and to communicate in writing what they think should be done to change our culture of violence. Personal responsibility is emphasized. By encouraging students to make a commitment to do something about the problem, the program ultimately strives to help them break the cycles of violence in their homes, schools and neighborhoods.

One boy and one girl from Utah will be selected to represent our state along with their teacher and the child's parent at the National Recognition Week in Washington, D.C. in July 2008. Their writings will also be published and placed in the Library of Congress.

Teachers are encouraged to incorporate the Challenge into their regular classroom curriculum. Ideas for classroom activities include:

- English: may be part of 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 a historical perspective to examine youth violence

The deadline for entries is January 21, 2008. To participate, students complete a short essay or poem and submit it to their teachers and/or principals. Each school then forwards all written essays to the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice for an initial review by college students from throughout Utah. Top regional essays will then be forwarded to the Board, who will select the top 12 essays. Finally, a panel of VIP judges select the state winners. Contest finalists, their teacher, and one of the child's parents are invited to attend an awards luncheon where state winners will be announced in April 2008.

Entry forms and additional information may be found at: [www.juvenile.utah.gov](http://www.juvenile.utah.gov). To request a teacher's packet by mail, please contact Reg Garff at [rgarff@utah.gov](mailto:rgarff@utah.gov) or call (801) 538-1372.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon M. Huntsman Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jon M. Huntsman Jr.  
Governor