



**REGION V
CHALLENGE REQUIREMENTS, INFORMATION AND SURVEYS
2016 - 2017**



***"Do the Write Thing" National Ambassador Cason Chance
with Regional Chairperson Judge Randy Shelton
at the Region 5 Do the Write Thing Banquet at Lamar University.***

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2016-2017 DIRECTIONS

- The day BEFORE beginning classroom discussion and writing – please pass out the **Student and Parent Consent form**. Ask the students to complete the top portion of the form in class and return the following day with parent signature.
- Instruct students to write an essay about violence which addresses each of the following 3 prompts:
 - **How has violence affected my life?**
 - **What are the causes of violence?**
 - **What can I do about violence?**
- Students may submit writings in the form of essays, songs, or poems, but all submissions need to address all three writing prompts.
- Remind students that writings are NOT fictional (information must be true to the best of the student's knowledge)
- ALL submissions must be accompanied by a COMPLETED Student and Parent Consent form. Unsigned forms will not be graded, but will be given participation recognition.
- Submissions may be typed or handwritten in blue or black ink (no pencil or colored ink) and must be single-sided (please do NOT write on the back).

Submitting the Essays:

- Please do NOT edit for content, grammar, or structure prior to submission.
- Staple the Student and Parent Consent form to the original writing
- Students who submit an essay along with the signed Parent Consent form will receive a *Do the Write Thing* wristband.
- Complete the Teacher Survey Form (attached) and place on top of submissions
- Send entries to:

Do the Write Thing Texas Challenge
c/o Cindy Bloodworth Jeanis
Beaumont Police Department
P.O. Box 3827
Beaumont, TX 77704

Please submit entries no later than December 2, 2016

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

Additional scenarios along with a PDF version of this Teacher Packet can be accessed under Teacher Resources tab at: www.dtwtx.org.

Classroom discussion is not a requirement for participating in the Challenge. However, candid discussions have proved to be beneficial. Classroom discussion provides an opportunity for educators to learn about problems simmering in school before the problems become crises.

Following are some questions to generate discussion among your students before they prepare their entries for the Challenge:

- When you hear the word violence, what thoughts or memories do you have?
- What does violence mean to you?
- How do you define violence?
- Discuss words, thoughts, and images that you associate with violence.
- What are some signs of violence? Can anything be done to reduce violence?
- Can bystanders be the key to controlling some types of violence? If safe, how can bystanders intervene? Why do bystanders allow violence by ignoring it or allowing it to happen? How can we change this? Can learning empathy change violence?

2016 - 2017 STUDENT AND PARENT CONSENT FORM - (REQUIRED)

***** ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED *****

STUDENTS FIRST NAME

(Clearly print information in the boxes below.)

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MIDDLE NAME OR INITIAL

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

LAST NAME

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

STUDENT'S GRADE: _____

STUDENT'S AGE: _____

GENDER: Male

(or)

Female

STUDENT'S MAILING ADDRESS (street number, street name, city and zip code):

STUDENT'S PHONE NUMBER: _____

SCHOOL: _____

DISTRICT: _____

TEACHER'S NAME: _____

STUDENT AND PARENT CONSENT STATEMENT

The National Campaign to Stop Violence, which sponsors the *Do the Write Thing Texas* Challenge, will publish selected student writings and quotations in a book and in a research paper on youth violence. Prior to publishing the student's essay, the Texas Challenge and the National Campaign requires the written consent of the student, and the written consent of the student's parent. If the above-named student and his/her parent agree to permit the Texas Challenge and the National Campaign to publish the student's writing, sign the following statement:

We agree to give ownership of the attached student writing to the *Do the Write Thing Texas* Challenge and to the *National Campaign to Stop Violence* so that the writing can be considered for analysis, recognition and/or publication in print and on the Texas Challenge Website.

STUDENT Agreed:

Signature of Student

Printed Name Student

Student Email

PARENT Agreed:

Signature of Parent

Printed Name Parent

Parent Email

STUDENT'S MUST: Staple this form on top of your original writing before submitting to your teacher

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEACHERS

WHY Do the Write Thing?

The *Do the Write Thing* Texas writing challenge satisfies a number of objectives from the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) curriculum in English/Language Arts and Social Studies, and complements character building and drug abuse prevention programs.

Personal responsibility is emphasized.

Please review the information below for program rules and deadlines:

Entries will be judged on the basis of content, originality, and the most thought provoking and responsiveness to these three questions:

- **How has violence affected my life?**
- **What are the causes of violence?**
- **What can I do about violence?**

- All participating student writers will receive a certificate of recognition for participating.
- Students must submit their writing along with **the signed Student/Parent consent form**.
- Student name on essay is acceptable, but no school name please.
- Submit all student writings so a certificate of recognition can be sent to the student.
- Entries that do not include a student or parental signature will not be advanced in the judging process. They will receive a certificate of recognition.
- Entries should be submitted in the form that they are received from the student writer.
- Editing for content, grammar, or spelling by someone other than the student is not permitted.
- No fictional writing in essays
- Essays can be either handwritten or typed, and **must be single-sided in blue or black ink only**. Essays written in pencil or double-sided will **not** be advanced in the judging process, but will receive a certificate of recognition.
- Students must staple the following together before submitting to their teacher:
 - The Student/Parent Consent Form (attached)
 - The original writing
- **REQUIRED:** Return a completed **Teacher Survey** (attached) and submit with your packaged student writings. Teacher Survey will ensure all student writings are posted with the correct teacher, school and district.

Students who submit a signed Parent Form **with** their essay will receive a *Do the Write Thing* wristband.

ESSAY SUBMISSION DATES

Submit your entries between Monday OCTOBER 3 and **Friday December 2, 2016**

Do the Write Thing Texas Challenge
c/o Cindy Bloodsworth Jeanis
Beaumont Police Dept
PO Box 3827
Beaumont, TX 77704

2016 - 2017 TEACHER SURVEY - (REQUIRED)

Your packaged Student Writings must be packaged together with this survey.

Dr. _ Mr. _ Ms. _ Mrs. _ TEACHER'S FIRST NAME: (please print) LAST NAME: (please print)

School Email Address: _____ School Phone Number: _____

Name of School: _____

Address of School: _____

City:

Zip

Dr. _ Mr. _ Ms. _ Mrs. _ PRINCIPAL'S FIRST NAME: (please print) LAST NAME: (please print)

Teacher's Cell: _

Teacher's Personal Email: _____

Questions 1 and 2 (required)

1. Number of your students submitting writings for the Challenge: _____
2. Number of students submissions with a Signed Parent Consent form (to receive a participation wristband):

3. Did you have a classroom discussion about violence before your students prepared their writings for the Challenge? (yes) (no)

Number of your students who participated (were present) for the discussion.

1-50 51-100 101-150 151-200 201-250 251-300 301-350 over 351

4. Did you use any of the TEKS correlated scenarios provided with the teacher packet? (yes) (no)

5. Comments

Optional questions:

6. What (in your opinion) were the **top three causes of violence** identified by your students?

7. What (in your opinion) were the **top three solutions for violence** identified by your students?

LOCAL AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Local Level

The Region V *Do the Write Thing* Committee coordinates the program locally. The Committee will organize a recognition ceremony to honor the boy and girl finalists from each participating school. The student's parents, teacher, principal, and superintendent will be invited to attend. The committee will publish the writings of all school finalists, and distribute the book to civic leaders.

LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Cindy Bloodsworth Jeanis: cbloodsworth@BeaumontTexas.gov
Phone: 409-880-1092
Fax: 409-880-3844

National Level

Two National Finalists will be chosen for the Region V Challenge. These finalists, along with one parent and their teacher are invited by the *National Campaign to Stop Violence* to attend the *Do the Write Thing* Challenge National Recognition Week activities in Washington, D.C.

Past National Recognition Week activities have included meeting with the Secretary of the Department of Education, the Attorney General of the United States, and members of Congress to discuss the problem of violence. Students have also been honored at embassy receptions hosted by the Ambassador to the United States from the State of Kuwait.

Disclaimer: Student Finalists attending the National recognition events must depart from and return to their original local *Do the Write Thing* Texas city site.



WHY DO THE WRITE THING?

***Do the Write Thing* Benefits STUDENTS Because:**

- They feel respected
- Their voice is heard
- High interest topic
- Introspective for students
- Meets TEKS requirements

***Do the Write Thing* Benefits TEACHERS Because:**

- Offers a complete lesson plan based on the TEKS
- Encourages discussion and offers an opportunity to improve writing skills
- Meets TEKS requirements for expository writing (see page 7)
- Can be used with all types of learners
- Optional five day writing plan provided that was developed by a successful master teacher complete and ready to go
- Optional real life scenarios with recent related articles have been created by current classroom teacher and are provided for classroom discussion to generate ideas
- Lesson plan that includes the Six Traits of Writing
- Optional foldable lesson included with a "how-to" video on the website
- Resource pages for foldable are included in the teacher packet