



# **HOUSTON/HARRIS COUNTY CHALLENGE TEACHER PACKET**



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# INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEACHERS

Thank you for involving your 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the 2016-2017 *Do the Write Thing* Texas Challenge!

## 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?**

- **Students must submit their writing along with the signed Student/Parent consent form.**
- **ALL** 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade student writers will receive a certificate of recognition for participating. Please submit all student writings so a certificate of recognition may be sent to the student. Entries that do not include a student or parental signature will receive a certificate of recognition, however, they will not be advanced in the judging process.
- Student name on essay is acceptable, but no school name please.
- 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.
- **Your school must submit a minimum of 25** papers to qualify for a school finalist.
- Students must attach the following together before submitting to their teacher:
  - The Student/Parent Consent Form
  - The original writing
- **REQUIRED:** Return a completed Teacher Survey (attached) and submit with your packaged student writings. Last year we received almost 14000 student writings from 40 school districts. The Teacher Survey will ensure all student writings are posted with the correct teacher, school and district.

## ESSAY SUBMISSION DATES

**ESSAYS MAY BE SUBMITTED BY MAIL OR IN PERSON**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 17 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016**

**Do the Write Thing Texas Challenge**  
**1001 Preston, Room 410D**  
**Houston, TX 77002**

# CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

**Additional scenarios along with a PDF version of this Teacher Packet may be accessed under Teacher Resources tab at: [www.dtwtx.org](http://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 are some signs of bullying? Can bullying be a prelude to violence? Can anything be done to reduce bullying?
- Can bystanders be the key to controlling some types of bullying? 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 bullying?
- Do you think the media promotes violence? How does the amount of violence portrayed in movies, music, books, TV, newspapers, videogames, and internet sites affect you? Are today's young people being desensitized about violence due to the amount of violence they are exposed to on a daily basis?
- Do teen celebrity role models influence today's youth to dress provocatively, diet to be thin, drink underage and make poor decisions? Are they sending the wrong message to their fans?
- Are reality shows teaching us that it is ok to be rude and uncaring to others?

# 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. Approximate number of your students submitting writings for the Challenge. \_\_\_\_\_

2. 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

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

4. **Comments**

## Optional questions:

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

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

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

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

(Clearly print information in the boxes below.)

STUDENTS FIRST NAME

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

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):

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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:**

**PARENT Agreed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Email

**ATTACH THIS FORM ON TOP OF YOUR ORIGINAL WRITING BEFORE SUBMITTING TO YOUR TEACHER**