

VIOLENCE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO STOP VIOLENCE

TO: All Participating Middle School Principals
FROM: Daniel Q. Callister, Chairman
SUBJECT: 2016 “Do the Write Thing Challenge”
DATE: September 2015

PRIMARY SPONSORS

KUWAIT-AMERICA
FOUNDATION

KUWAIT FOUNDATION
FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT
OF SCIENCES

NATIONAL SPONSORS

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES

CRIMINAL JUSTICE
DIVISION
TEXAS GOVERNOR'S
OFFICE

MARRIOTT
FOUNDATION

FLORIDA CRYSTALS

THE WILLIAM H. PITT
FOUNDATION

PARTNERING
ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICA'S
PROMISE ALLIANCE

ATHLETES FOR HOPE

COMMUNITIES IN
SCHOOLS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
JUVENILE
& FAMILY
COURT JUDGES

THE GREATER
WASHINGTON URBAN
LEAGUE, INC.

Thank you for agreeing to include your 6th, 7th and 8th grade students in the 2016 “**Do the Write Thing Challenge**” (“**Challenge**”). Starting this fall, you will be joined by hundreds of other school principals from across the United States in a coordinated, unique effort to give students the opportunity to communicate their thoughts on the impact of youth violence on their lives and to make personal commitments to reduce violence. All costs for this program are generously paid for by our sponsors.

Over the past twenty years, the “**Do the Write Thing Challenge**” has proven to be effective in reducing youth violence in schools and communities across the United States. Hundreds of thousands of students have accepted the “Challenge” to do something to reduce youth violence. Hundreds of books have been published and circulated containing the words of these students, both locally and nationally. Over the years, teachers have continually spoken out regarding the benefits of the “Do the Write Thing Challenge.” Linda Hanson, a teacher from Montana expressed it like this, “...thank you for developing a program that gives students a voice to speak out about what they see and experience in their everyday lives. And a challenge to personally take a part in putting an end to the many kinds of violence that invade the lives of their family, friends and themselves. You honored their voice and their experiences and then let them hear the voices of men and women who have soared above similar challenges.” The “Challenge” is especially proud of the support of thousands of adult volunteers across the country.

The packet enclosed, entitled Instructions for Classroom Teachers explains this year’s “**Do the Write Thing Challenge**” in more detail. This packet includes a letter to participating classroom teachers and information about program rules, entry deadlines, selection criteria, classroom discussions, common core application and student recognition. All of this information can be downloaded from our website, www.dtw.org. In addition, a video highlighting the National Recognition Week can be viewed.

Please designate one person to be the contact person for your school. This individual will need to collect the completed student writings from the teachers and deliver them to your local “**Do the Write Thing**” coordinator before **Friday, March 11, 2016. Please note that the deadline for the submission of student writings to your office is 5:00 PM on Friday, March 4, 2016.**

If you have any questions, please call Lisa Cone at 1-800-256-0235. Thank you again for supporting this year’s program. We wish your students success and hope to see one of your teachers and one of your students in Washington, D.C. next July.