



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

GARY R. HERBERT
GOVERNOR

SPENCER J. COX
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Dear Utah Educator:

The Office of Governor Gary R. Herbert and the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice invite students to participate in Utah's Eighteenth Annual *Do the Write Thing Challenge*.

The challenge offers 7th and 8th grade students across the state an opportunity to examine the impact of youth violence on their lives, and then compose an essay about what they believe should be done to change cultures of violence. Personal responsibility is emphasized by encouraging students to make a commitment to do something about the problems they see.

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 2018. Top essays will be published and placed in the Library of Congress. In addition, all contest finalists, their teacher and parents will be invited to attend a recognition luncheon where the top two authors will be announced in April 2018.

Teachers are encouraged to incorporate the challenge into their regular classroom curriculum. Lesson plans can be found on the Board of Juvenile Justice's website at www.juvenile.utah.gov. Rules, entry forms and additional information are also available on this website.

Last year's challenge involved more than 2,000 students, who participated in classroom discussions about youth violence and submitted over 900 essays. The deadline for entries this year is **December 8, 2017**.

If you have any questions, please contact Cuong Nguyen at cvnguyen@utah.gov or call (801) 538-1739. We encourage your students' participation and look forward to this year's *Do the Write Thing Challenge*.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Herbert
Governor