

2015-16

Do the *Write* Thing Montana Challenge

*Students in grades 7-8 submit original writings between 500-1,000 words addressing violence and what they are doing to make a difference in their homes, schools, and communities by **February 19, 2016**.*

One boy and one girl will be selected to be Montana's ambassadors to the National Celebration in Washington, D.C., in July 2016. Hotel and airfare will be provided by sponsors.

Students are accompanied by a parent and the participating teacher and spend several days in violence prevention workshops and activities.



The mission of the Board of Crime Control is to proactively contribute to public safety, crime prevention and victim assistance through planning, policy development, and coordination of the justice system in partnership with citizens, government, and communities.



Do the *Write* Thing: The 2015-16 Montana Challenge



The 2015-16 Challenge: Doing the **Write** Thing in Montana Schools

Montana's middle school students are invited to submit original writings on the impact of violence on their lives and how they are making a difference in their homes, schools, and communities.



Teachers will send us their students' writings. The top boys and girls from each participating school will be invited to Helena April 30, 2016, to be recognized at a celebration in their honor at ExplorationWorks. From those students, one boy and one girl will be selected to represent Montana as our ambassadors in Washington, D.C., in July 2016.

Inspire your students to Do the **Write** Thing and take a stand against youth violence in Montana!

Do the **Write** Thing Rules

- Students may use any form of written expression as long as the language is positive and not derogatory;
- Students may submit only one entry per year;
- All entries must be the students' original work;
- Entries should be 500-1,000 words;
- Entries must be typed or written legibly in black ink on one side of 8-1/2" x 11" paper, and pages should be numbered;
- Submit the original writing and one photocopy with the cover sheet; and
- **Editing for content, grammar, or spelling by someone other than the student is not permitted.**

Writing Topics

Student writings, at a minimum, should address the following three questions:

1. How has violence affected my life?
2. What are the causes of youth violence?
3. What can I do about youth violence?

Classroom Discussion

Here are some questions designed to generate discussion among your students before they write:

- * How does violence affect your daily lives?
- * Where are you confronted by violence? Your home? Your neighborhood? Your school?

- * What kind of violence have you experienced, either first- or second-hand?
- * What are some of the causes of youth violence in your school or community?
- * What can you do as an individual to reduce youth violence in your school or community?
- * What would you like your school or community to do, in order to prevent youth violence?



Send student writings **by February 19, 2016**, to the Montana Board of Crime Control at the following address:

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5 South Last Chance Gulch
PO Box 201408
Helena, MT 59620-1408

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