



**Montana Board of Crime Control**

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**TO: All Participating Middle School Principals**  
**FROM: Shawn Clark, DtWT State Chairman**  
**SUBJECT: 2017 "Do the Write Thing Challenge"**  
**DATE: November 22, 2016**

You are cordially invited to participate in Montana's **Do the Write Thing Challenge**, a violence prevention program that targets 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and asks them to take a stand against violence in their schools and communities. 2017 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Montana's participation in the National program. Sixth grade students may also participate if they are in the same building as the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

By participating 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.**

More than 1,000 Montana middle school students have submitted thought-provoking, insightful essays and poems. Each year Montana's **Do the Write Thing** committee selects one boy and one girl to represent Montana as our ambassadors to Washington, D.C. accompanied by a parent and the sponsoring teacher to attend a four-day gathering of other ambassadors. Parents, teachers, and students attend workshops and visit Capitol Hill. A leather-bound book containing the ambassadors' writings is presented to the Library of Congress; our students have been invited to read their essays aloud at the Library of Congress and the Supreme Court.

The attached information, entitled Instructions for Classroom Teachers explains this year's **"Do the Write Thing Challenge"** in more detail. The **attachments include: a letter to participating teachers, information about rules, deadlines, selection criteria, and student recognition; and a classroom discussion guide regarding violence prevention linked to Common Core application.**

Information can also be downloaded from our website, [www.mbcc.mt.gov](http://www.mbcc.mt.gov). A video highlighting the National Recognition Week can be viewed at [www.dtw.org](http://www.dtw.org). If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at 406-444-2056 or email me at [sdclark@mt.gov](mailto:sdclark@mt.gov).

Sincerely,

*Shawn Clark*

Shawn Clark  
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