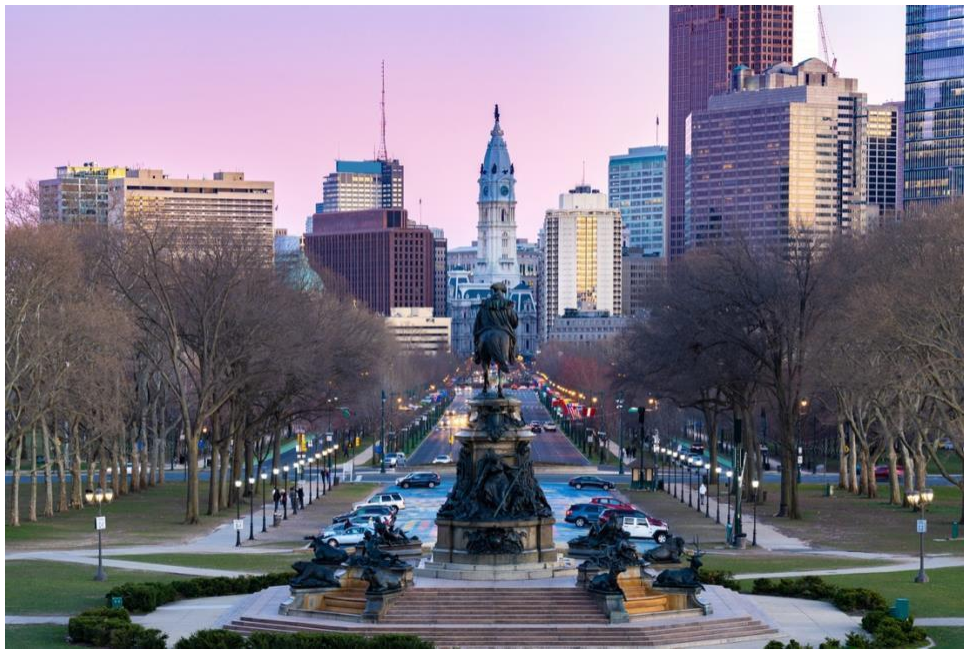


TEACHER'S PACKET 2021

PHILADELPHIA "DO THE WRITE THING" CHALLENGE



**ALL PARTICIPATING MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS
2021 DO THE WRITE THING**

Thank you for taking the time to involve your 6th, 7th and 8th grade students in the 2021 Do the Write Thing (DtWT) program, the hallmark initiative of the National Campaign to Stop Violence. You will be joined by thousands of other classroom teachers from across the United States in a coordinated, unique effort to give students the opportunity to communicate their experiences and insights on the impact of youth violence on their lives and to make personal commitments to reduce violence. This program can make a very positive difference in your relationship with your students and help reduce the level of violence in your school. According to a Chicago teacher, “The *Do the Write Thing* program is responsible for one of the most important things that happened in a classroom during all the years I have been a teacher. After the children had the opportunity to write on the issue of violence, discussion in the classroom became open and extraordinarily emotional. The ultimate result was positive beyond a teacher’s wildest expectations.”

In July of 2021, if your student is selected as a National Ambassador and if conditions exist for safe travel and gatherings with respect to the pandemic, you will be invited by the National Campaign to Stop Violence to attend DtWT’s National Recognition Week in Washington, D.C. (travel and accommodations included). If health and safety is still an issue, you will be invited to participate in a virtual Recognition Weekend, which we will also host in July 2021.

During previous National Recognition Weeks, DtWT National Ambassadors have met with a United States Supreme Court Justice, the United States Secretary of Education, the Attorney General of the United States, the United States Secretary of the Interior, Members of Congress and other prominent Americans to discuss the problem of youth violence. In addition, the students were honored at an embassy reception hosted by the Ambassador from the State of Kuwait to the United States. A highlight of the week is a ceremony at the Library of Congress where their published writing is placed in the Library of Congress, ensuring that the student’s words will be available to all. For more information about the National Recognition Week please go to www.dtwt.org.

Although Covid-19 has disrupted classes across the country, we know it is more important than ever to listen to our young students who are still dealing with the effects of violence. Enclosed is a packet titled Instructions for Classroom Teachers, which explains DtWT in more detail. This packet includes information about program rules, entry deadlines, selection criteria, classroom discussions and student recognition. In addition you will find a brief summary of research from the University of Texas at El Paso outlining the benefits of using DtWT and information on how the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s campaign on “Changing Minds” dovetails with DtWT. All of this information can also be downloaded at our website, www.dtwt.org. **Note that student writings are to be submitted to the local coordinator for the National Campaign to Stop Violence by 5:00 PM on Friday, April 30, 2021.**

If you have any questions, please contact Nickisha Cox, Esquire at nickisha.cox@courts.phila.gov or email dtwtphilly@gmail.com. Thank you again for participating in this year’s program. We wish your students success and hope to see you and one of your students in Washington, D.C. in July, if conditions permit.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEACHERS

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 WANTING TO QUALIFY AS SCHOOL FINALISTS MUST
SUBMIT THEIR WRITING ALONG WITH THE SIGNED STUDENT/PARENT CONSENT FORM.**

- Please submit ALL your 6th, 7th and 8th grade student writings so a certificate of recognition may be sent to the student to acknowledge their participation.
- Your school must submit a minimum of 25 papers with parental consent forms to qualify for having school finalists. Entries that do not include a student or parental signature will still 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.
- Writings can be either handwritten or typed. For handwritten submissions, please scan and upload the document file to the google doc.
- 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.
- Essays are judged on content alone.
- Any fictional writing must be labeled as such.
- Your school may also participate using the Do the Write Thing Challenge as a writing assignment and each student submitting an essay will still receive a Certificate of Recognition.

Please submit all student writings through the Online Submission Form.

2021 TEACHER SURVEY
PLEASE SEND COMPLETED SURVEY BY APRIL 5th

Dr. _ Mr. Ms. _ 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. __ PRINCIPAL'S FIRST NAME: (please print) _____

LAST NAME: (please print) _____

Teacher's Phone: _____ Teacher's 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.

1-25 25-50 50-100 100-150 over 150

3. Comments:

JOIN US FOR THE CHALLENGE!



IMPORTANT DATES



March 15, 2021 - April 30, 2021 – Essay Submissions

May 2021 – School Finalists Announced

June 2021 – National Finalists Announced

July 2021 – National Recognition Ceremony, Washington D.C.

All forms and rules are also available on the Philadelphia website: www.wtphilly.org