

Do the Write Thing 2023-2024

DEAR PARTICIPATING MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:

We have witnessed students from across the country plead that we, as a nation, ensure their safety and that of their friends, families, schools and communities. They are speaking up, calling on us to listen and to take action to end the violence they face. At Do the Write Thing (DtWT), a hallmark program of the National Campaign to Stop Violence (NCSV), we are heeding those calls and have been for the past 29 years. DtWT seeks to empower youth, through their writings, with the ability to reduce youth violence.

By agreeing to include your students in the 2023-2024 DtWT program, you will be giving them a voice and a platform. You will be joined by hundreds of other principals from across the United States in a 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. All costs for this program are generously paid for by our sponsors.

DtWT has proven to be effective in reducing youth violence in schools and communities across the United States. Over 1.4 million students have participated through written submissions while another 2.5 million have joined classroom discussions to voice their views and experiences. Hundreds of books containing students' essays have been published and circulated both locally and nationally. Recent research conducted by the University of Texas at El Paso on DtWT found the program had a positive impact on the relationship between students, parents and educators. Participating students exhibited "**more positive behaviors and attitudes towards peers and educators**".

The packet enclosed, entitled **Educator Handbook**, explains DtWT in more detail. This packet includes a letter to participating classroom educators and information about program rules, entry deadlines, selection criteria, and more. All of this information can also be downloaded from our website, www.dtw.org/resources.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone or by email. Thank you again for supporting this year's DtWT. We wish your students success and hope to see one of your educators and one of your students in Washington, D.C. next July.

