



***Benefits of the “Do the Write Thing” Challenge Program***

During National Recognition Week 2014, researchers from the University of Texas at El Paso interviewed the students, parents and teachers who were in attendance. The purpose was to conduct research on how the “Do the Write Thing” Challenge Program affects its participants. Below are some of the outcomes.

***Students***

- Greater empathy and understanding for victims of violence
- Increased tolerance and less judgmental for differences of people
- Increased communication with peers and family members instead of reverting to violence
- More positive behaviors and attitudes towards peers and teacher
- More motivated to report violence to teachers and encouraged others to do the same
- Standing up for themselves to gain confidence
- More often reporting bullying and similar behaviors to adults and more aware of the importance of doing so
- Reaching out to kids who do not have friends and are often bullied
- Greater motivation to intervene, especially in bullying situations
- Believe they can make a difference
- Awareness that they can do things differently instead of using violent solutions

***Parents***

- Better understanding of the impact of violence on their children
- Increased communication with sons, daughters and other family members
- Much more aware of child’s concerns
- Improved communication at home with children and spouse
- Greater understanding of violence in the school and community
- Monitoring their children more in their neighborhoods to see what they are doing
- Want to see more schools and students involved in DtWT
- Interested in creating projects to help children with problems related to violence

***Teachers***

- Increased knowledge about their students leading to 1) attitudinal changes and 2) adapting their instruction
- Established mutually trusted relationships with students
- Awareness of how students became more tolerant, less discriminating and less hostile towards others
- Greater tolerance and compassion for students as a result of discussions and essays
- Change teaching modes including using writing as a preventive measure
- More healing and bonding of families
- More closely monitoring student behavior regarding bullying
- Teaching their students not be by-standers

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