



Office of the Governor

State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

October 1, 2009

Dear Educator:

The Office of the Governor and the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice invite you and your students to participate in Utah's Tenth Annual *Do the Write Thing Challenge*.

The *Challenge* offers 7th and 8th grade students an opportunity to examine the impact of youth violence on their lives and to communicate in writing what they think should be done to prevent this type of violence. The *Challenge* emphasizes personal responsibility by encouraging students to make a commitment to take positive steps to change the problem. Ultimately, the program strives to help students break the cycle of violence in their homes, schools and neighborhoods.

One boy and one girl from Utah will be selected to represent our state, along with their teacher and a parent, during the National Recognition Week in Washington, D.C. in July 2010. Top essays will be published and placed in the Library of Congress.

Teachers are encouraged to incorporate the *Challenge* into their regular classroom curriculum. Ideas for the classroom could include:

- English: Use as an essay or poetry-writing assignment;
- Health: Discuss personal safety and well-being of others;
- Civics: Conduct an exercise on personal and civic responsibility;
- History: Use an historical perspective to examine youth violence.

Deadline for entries is January 19, 2010. To participate, each student must write a short essay or poem and submit it to their teacher and/or principal. Each school then forwards all written essays to the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice for an initial review by college students throughout Utah. Top regional essays will then be forwarded to the Board, which will select the top 12 essays. Finally, a panel of VIP judges selects the top two essays. Contest finalists, their teachers and a parent are invited to attend a recognition luncheon where the top two authors will be announced in April 2010.

Entry forms and additional information may be found at: www.juvenile.utah.gov. To request a teacher's packet by mail, please contact Reg Garff at rgarff@utah.gov or call (801) 538-1372.

We encourage your students' participation and look forward to this year's *Challenge*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary R. Herbert".

Gary R. Herbert
Governor