# STATE OF UTAH

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
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GARY R. HERBERT
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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Dear Educator:

The Office of the Governor and the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice invite you and your students to participate in Utah's Seventh Annual *Do the Write Thing* Challenge. This project provides young people a crucial voice to reduce youth violence through writing and literature.

The Challenge encourages 7th and 8th grade students to participate in classroom discussions and write about the causes of and solutions to youth violence. In addition, National Finalists will have their writings published and placed in the Library of Congress. One boy and one girl from Utah will be selected to represent our State at the National Recognition Week in Washington, D. C. in July 2007.

Teachers are encouraged to incorporate the Challenge into their regular classroom curriculum. Some ideas for classroom activities include:

- English: May be part of 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 a historical perspective to examine youth violence

The deadline for entries is January 22, 2007. To participate, students complete a short essay or poem and submit it to their teachers and/or principals. Each school then forwards all written essays to the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice for an initial review by college students from throughout Utah. Top regional essays will be forwarded to the Board, who then select the top 12 essays (6 boys and 6 girls). Finally, a panel of qualified VIP judges select the State winners. Contest finalists, their teacher and a parent will be invited to attend an awards luncheon where state winners will be announced in April 2007. In July, winning students, their teacher and a parent will go to Washington, D. C. to participate with other finalists during the National Recognition Week.

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 student's participation and look forward to this year's Challenge.

Sincerely,

Jon M. Huntsman Jr.
Governor