



Aug. 29, 2025

Dear Educator,

The Office of the Governor and the Utah State Board of Education invite you and your students to participate in Utah's 26th Annual *Do the Write Thing* (DtWT) Challenge:

The *Challenge* offers seventh and eighth grade students across the state an opportunity to examine the impact of youth violence on their lives and then write what they think should be done to change the culture of violence. Personal responsibility is emphasized by encouraging students to commit to do something about the problem. The DtWT Challenge ultimately strives to help them break the cycle of violence in their homes, schools and neighborhoods. In today's social media climate, the DtWT Challenge offers the opportunity for students to express their view in a non-threatening manner. Teachers should encourage students to participate.

Two submissions per participating school will be selected as State's finalist and will be invited to attend a recognition luncheon in April 2026 during which the top one author will be announced. State finalists will receive a scholarship deposit to Utah's my529 Education Saving Account. The top submission will be published and placed in the Library of Congress, and the student will represent Utah as an "Ambassador for Peace."

Teachers are encouraged to incorporate the Challenge into their regular classroom curriculum. Lesson plans can be found on the website at <https://www.schools.utah.gov/prevention/dothewritethingchallenge>. Rules, entry forms and additional information are also available on this website. The following is a list of ideas for the classroom:

- 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.

The deadline for entries is **January 9, 2026**. The 2025 challenge involved more than 1,300 students participating in classroom discussions about youth violence with over 950 students prepared writing from 33 teachers and 16 schools across the state. We look forward to increasing these numbers in the 2026 challenge.

If you have any questions, please contact Cuong Nguyen at cuong.nguyen@schools.utah.gov or call (801) 538-7790.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Spencer J. Cox". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "S" and a distinct "C" at the end.

Spencer J. Cox
Governor