



The Aim of this Writing Project

- DTWT likes to stress that this isn't a "writing competition". It is a way for students to express themselves on the topic of violence.
- The project helps build sympathy, empathy, and situational understanding among students, between students and educators, students and administrators, and schools and communities.

Writing Prompt Questions

How has violence affected my life?

What are the causes of youth violence?

What are some solutions to youth violence?

Essay Tips

- The strongest essays are five paragraphs long with an introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- "Violence" can be interpreted in a broad sense and include physical, psychological, or second-hand instances.
- The essay should focus on the student's experiences, thoughts, opinions, and suggestions. While research could add substance to the essay, it is not required.
- The essays can be handwritten or typed.
- Participating schools only have to get students to produce the essays. DTWT does everything else.

Sample Lesson Plans

- Sample lesson plans can be found here: <https://www.dtwt.org/resources>

The Payoff

- Through this writing project, your students will participate in expressivist writing that is connected to their lived experiences.
- The project helps build a community/school of understanding and empathy surrounding the topic of violence.
- Ten Dallas-area students will be recognized as finalists.
- One Dallas-area student will be chosen to serve as an ambassador at the Do the Write Thing Summer Summit in Washington DC. It will be an all-expenses-paid trip for the student, one of their parents, and one educator from their school.