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## Do The Write Thing Essay, 2014

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~~Crystal Moore~~

~~Martin Luther King Jr. K-8 school~~

*Letter of a prisoner*

*All I wanted was to fit in.  
I wanted to have friends.  
Apparently that wasn't the best way,  
Violence was the only answer.  
I wanted to feel a sense of belonging.  
If you wanted to hang with us,  
You had to do something to prove yourself.*

*A sophomore in high school.  
Now an inmate in state prison.  
Believe it or not but this has really affected my future.  
I had an ambition of being a lawyer.  
Threw my whole life away.  
5-7 years in the same cell.  
And then your family hardly visits you.  
Oh man, how stupid was I?*

*Honestly, I regret my decision.  
And now I'm writing letters to pass time.  
I really miss my friends and family.  
Never let someone pressure you into anything.  
This is where you might end up.*

*Maybe we can stop youth violence  
Get teens into summer programs  
Give them away to occupy themselves  
Keep them out the streets.*

~~Kyrish Moore~~

~~Martin Luther King Jr. K-3 school~~

*Take their minds off of the negative  
I realized from my own experience,  
That violence isn't necessary.  
I also acknowledged that the little things cause it  
Drama, gangs and disrespect,  
If we try, we can prevent and avoid it*