



LYNNE ABRAHAM  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **District Attorney Lynne Abraham Announces the Winners of The "Step Up, Speak Up Creative Writing Contest"**

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**WHAT: Press Conference**  
**WHEN: Thursday June 22, 2006**  
**TIME: 11:00 AM**  
**WHERE: District Attorney's Office**  
**Three South Penn Square, Mezzanine Level**

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<b>Lynne Abraham</b>	District Attorney of Philadelphia
<b>Paul Vallas</b>	Chief Executive of the School District of Philadelphia
<b>J.P. "Jody" Weis</b>	Special Agent in Charge, Philadelphia Division -FBI
<b>Patrick Meehan</b>	U.S. Attorney- Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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District Attorney Lynne M. Abraham, along with Special Agent J.P. "Jody" Weis, Chief Executive Paul Vallas and U.S. Attorney Patrick Meehan announce the winners of the "Step Up, Speak Up" Creative Writing Contest for Philadelphia High School students.

After reviewing some 200 entries the committee selected the following winners to receive cash prizes. The winners are:

1<sup>st</sup> Place winner of \$150.00 is **Ms. Talisha Payton**, 9<sup>th</sup> grader at Central High  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place winner of \$100.00 is **Mr. Nicholas Waugh**, 12<sup>th</sup> grader at Abraham Lincoln  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place winner of \$75.00 is **Ms. Bridget Glendon**, 9<sup>th</sup> grader at Central High

On Tuesday, April 25, 2006, District Attorney Lynne Abraham challenged Philadelphia high school students to write about: how important it is for witnesses to "Step Up and Speak Up" against violent crime in the community. The contest was launched to counteract the "Anti-Snitching" campaign, which encourages citizens who witness violent crimes not to testify.

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**Step Up – Speak Up**  
**Press Conference**

The Step Up, Speak Up campaign is a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Philadelphia Division, The Philadelphia Police Department, The Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, The United States Attorney's Office, Mothers-In-Charge, Don't Fall Down In The Hood, and Clear Channel Outdoor.

The Prizes awarded to each winner are made possible through the District Attorney's not-for-profit 501(c) 3 corporation, Urban Genesis Inc.