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TCTC Student Writes Letter to President-Wins \$ 25 Borders Gift Certificate



The Literacy Committee at the TCTC with the support of Borders Books sponsored a writing contest for the student body. Students were challenged to write a persuasive letter to the President addressing concerns that will affect their future. With the price of gasoline, the mortgage crisis, the rising cost of college tuition, and the war in Iraq, there were many issues to capture their attention. Students could also choose to submit their letter for publication at a website established by the National Writing Project.

The winner of the contest was Grace Carrino, a junior enrolled in Biotechnology Tech Prep. Grace addressed several topics in her letter to the President.

She told the President that parents should have the right to choose the educational path for their children. Grace believes this will create free thinkers who are not subject to dogma associated with a public or parochial school. She also addressed the issue of taxation. She referenced the Boston Tea Party as a legitimate protest against unfair taxation. She stated, "If the Government had access to fewer dollars from the citizens, perhaps they would spend them more wisely." The final topic discussed by Grace was the war in Iraq. She stated, "It should be similar to our philosophy in World War Two. If we are going to fight, we should fight to win."

The White House receives thousands of letters of correspondence each day. There is no guarantee that the President will read Grace's letter. Nevertheless, she has exercised a privilege that is essential to a democratic form of Government. She has given intelligent voice to her opinions on topics of importance. In the process, she strengthened her communication skills.