



For Immediate Release

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**Taft IT High School students celebrate freedom and literacy with
Freedom Writers tour on January 25th**

Essay contest winners to tour Freedom Center and downtown law firm

CINCINNATI—To help promote literacy, 25 Taft Information Technology High School students and winners of a *Freedom Writers* essay contest sponsored by Cincinnati law firm Strauss & Troy (www.strausstroy.com) will tour the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center on January 25th. That same day, the final contest winner will receive a laptop computer during a lunch presentation at Strauss & Troy's offices at 150 East Fourth Street downtown. An educational presentation by the firm's Information Systems department will precede the final award.

Strauss & Troy's internal philanthropic Make A Difference Team partnered with Cincinnati Public Schools to create *Freedom Writers* as part of Taft IT High School's 2004-2005 curriculum to help promote literacy to inner city youth and encourage the pursuit of higher education in the field of Information Technology. In Fall 2004, students in each grade were each asked to write a two-page essay in answer to the question "What does freedom mean to you?" Make A Difference Team members then selected five winners from each grade and five special education student winners to join the *Freedom Writers* tour. The agenda is as follows:

9:30 AM	Make A Difference Team picks up students at Taft IT High School, 420 Ezzard Charles Drive, for trolley ride to National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
10 AM – 12:15 PM	Tour of Freedom Center and downtown Cincinnati
12:15 PM – 1:45 PM	Lunch and tour of Strauss & Troy's downtown office at 150 East Fourth St.; students receive 15-minute presentation from firm's IT department; grand prize contest winner is awarded laptop computer
1:45 PM – 2:15 PM	Students return to Taft IT High School



“Our firm has always been committed to helping our community grow and prosper. We created the Freedom Writers program to continue and enhance that commitment. Little did we know what an overwhelming response we would receive,” said Marsha Weaver Butler, Make A Difference Team member. “Some kids wrote poetry. Some referred to books they had read. And others wrote about their own experiences. Some hand wrote their essays while others used computers. Based on the thoughtfulness and hard work that went into these essays, every student who participated is a winner.”

For more information about the *Freedom Writers* program and January 25th tour, contact Bill Woods at (513) 621-2120.

About Strauss & Troy

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