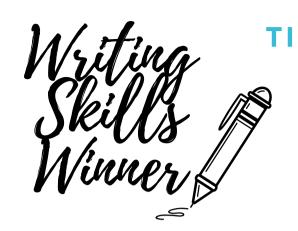
## 2020 CDC COMPETITION



## 3RD PLACE

GABRIELLA RODRIGUEZ COMPADRE JAG

walk out the door no one notices,

My brother is screaming at my mom as usual, over his addiction Walking into my first day of school alone

'I can do this.'

I walk feeling like I am invisible and alone.

As I walk into my classroom,

I feel a weight lift off my shoulders

I feel happy and at peace.

I know this classroom is safe.

Fast Forward, High School.

I'm trying to find a new safe haven.

I have no family, no friends, no one to relate to,

I am alone once more, starting a new year once more

Im scared im not going to be able to be successful

Then things change once again.

A new year and a classroom

Jobs for Arizona's Graduates,

In a second I feel as if i now have a purpose to be great.

The environment is new, I see people ready to work with a purpose Something I've never been apart of, but I'm ready for it. I'm learning new things I never thought i'd learn I don't feel alone anymore.

As time is passing I am growing to be independent and determined.

Everytime i'm in this environment with these people who let me know i have a purpose

I feel like I am safe once more, even if it's just for an hour. Im creating friendships with people i'd never thought i'd have a friendship with

I am growing close to this environment.

I am becoming an adult

I never thought i was capable of accomplishing so much, I have a good paying job for a student in highschool, I have the ability to be successful with the things i've

learned

I never thought i'd graduate on time,

I'm doing it

I never thought i'd feel like i have a family I have it, the greatest friends i could ask for I never thought i'd have a home, I do. it's JAG.

There really is no place like it.

