

Houston Independent School District
Ortiz Middle School
6767 Telephone Rd.
Houston, TX 77505

January 7, 2005

To Whom it May Concern,

It is my pleasure to recommend Anthony Gonzales, stage name Lita' Rodi, as a performer on the topic of Safe and Drug Free Schools. I am counselor for Houston Independent School District's Ortiz Middle School, in Houston, TX. I came to know Anthony when he approached our school about performing for our Red Ribbon Week Program. He had already signed up to perform at three other schools and offered us the opportunity to go see him. After attending his performance at another middle school, we were, without a doubt, sure that he would grab the attention of our students in a manner that we could not.

Anthony performed three shows for us, one for each of our grade levels. He started his performance by telling the students about his life growing up and the struggles he has had to overcome. Much of what Anthony had to say really touched the lives of our students, as many have and are dealing with the same sorts of issues. He then followed with a couple of musical performances, in which he put to music his struggles. At the end of the program, he goes back and reiterates to the students his overall message, leaving the students with a new sense that they too can overcome the obstacles in their life, through positive paths, such as music, rather than the negative paths, such as drugs and alcohol.

Overall, Anthony is highly effective in articulating a message of anti-drug and violence by his real life stories and music. He kept our student body of 6th-8th graders captivated by his message.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Araceli Rodriguez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "A".

Araceli Rodriguez
School Counselor