



## LETTER WRITING

### WHAT IS IT?

Letter writing is a personal, reflective activity which will be a new experience for some learners.

This tool explores some of the ways you might use letter writing with groups and with individuals.

### RECIPE

- **No. of participants:** 1+
- **Age of participants:** 5+
- **Preparation time:** 5 - 20 minutes
- **Delivery time:** 10 minutes – 1 hour
- **Materials:** Pens, notepaper, envelopes

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

A session can begin or end with letter writing. The activity can be used to promote consolidation of learning, reflection on learning or empathy and insight around a particular topic.

#### **Cathartic Letter Writing:**

Ask learners to write a letter to their future self or past self. This kind of letter might be private so you might want to ensure that the letters are sealed and taken home rather than shared.

Students could write to a famous inventor, a member of parliament or a character from a film. These letters could be shared between small groups and form the basis of further exploratory work.

You might want to use letter writing to explore conflict and divisions within a group. Each party could exchange letters which discuss their grievances and explore how they'd like to move forward. You might want to end a session by shredding or burning these letters to signify the end of the disagreement.

Learners could write letters 'in role' as a particular character.

## HOW DOES IT WORK? (cont.)

### Letters as Stimulus

You could ask students to reply to a genuine historical letter or a letter from literature or film.

You could write the class (or each individual student) as a fictional character. These letters could be used to prepare students for an upcoming event like a school trip, a science experiment or an enquiry in role. (See 'Enquiry in Role' and 'Provocation' Tool)

A younger class could receive a (fictional) letter from the same character each week which could be discussed during circle time.

If you're writing fictional letters to your class, you may want to introduce puzzles, problems or tasks for them to investigate. You could even set up a meeting with the mysterious letter-writer at the end of the project.

### Correspondence

Students from classes exploring the same topic could write to one another.

Letter writing among students could support a peer mentoring scheme or aid the transition from Primary to Secondary school.

Students could write to pupils from different social or cultural backgrounds, at home or abroad.

## TIPS

- Try giving participants note paper or note cards and envelopes to use rather than workbooks or file paper.
- Students can, of course, write emails to each other, students from other schools or a fictional character instead of sending letters.

## YOUR NOTES...

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

## FIND OUT MORE

- See 'Enquiry in Role' Tool
- See 'Taking Enquiry Further' Tool
- See 'Provocation' Tool



**THINKING SPACE**  
Flat 2, 46 Sale Hill  
Broomhill  
Sheffield S10 5BX  
07986631385

[info@thinkingspace.org.uk](mailto:info@thinkingspace.org.uk)  
[www.thinkingspace.org.uk](http://www.thinkingspace.org.uk)

