



LETTERS ALOUD

Private letters read in public

Lesson 2: I Live and I Hope in a World

BE THE CHANGE

Brief Lesson Description

In this lesson, students will participate in a thinking and sentence writing exercise titled, “I Live and I Hope in a World.” This exercise is followed by a letter writing activity in which each student will use her/his “I live in a...” and “I hope...” statements to begin writing a formal, personal letter to an individual or group selected by the student.

Common Core Standard(s) and Learning Objectives

Writing Standards – Grade 8*: Production and Distribution of Writing

*(*see below for 6th & 7th grade standards)*

Standard 4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in Standard 3 below)

Standard 3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

- a. Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.
- b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
- c. Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence, signal shifts from one-time frame or setting to another and show the relationships among experiences and events.
- d. Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.
- e. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events.

Learning Objective:

Students will use their understanding of the impact that a letter can have on the lives of individuals, groups, and social, political, economic, and cultural institutions from Lesson 1 and their developing understanding of how to write a formal, personal letter to write a letter to a selected individual or group for a specific purpose/aim.



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Big Idea/Overarching Understanding

A simple letter can inspire, challenge, and enlighten individuals and groups and may even change the world.

Essential Questions

1. What do you notice about the world you live in and the world others may live in?
2. How can you write a formal, personal letter to a selected individual or group that is purposeful and aims to have an impact on that individual or group?

What students will know as a result of this lesson

A standard format for writing a formal, but personal, letter

What students will be able to do as a result of this lesson

Write a formal, personal letter following a standard letter format

Key vocabulary

Formal letter; personal letter; open letter; personal interests; important causes; fighting for what's right; making a connection

Procedures

1. Introduce the thinking and writing exercise titled, "I Live and I Hope in a World." In this exercise, students will write five statements in response to the prompts, "I live in a..." and "I hope...."

Each "I live in a" and "I hope" statement is followed by a description connecting the student to a personal perspective or experience (individual, immediate family) or community perspective or experience (friends, neighbors, school, others), or world perspective (values, laws, language, culture, religion, others).

Example 1:

I LIVE:

I live in a neighborhood where people without homes live in a park.

I HOPE:

I hope to live in a neighborhood where there are homes for all.

Example 2:

I LIVE:

I live in a world where the air tastes salty because of the water from Puget Sound.

I HOPE:

I hope that others love the water too.