

# A Letter to Next Year's Teacher About Your Own Writing

## *Telling a Teacher About Your Writing Ability*

**Project Summary:** Good writers write often. They also think about their writing abilities. They think about what they do well, what they would like to do better, and what they like to write about. In this project, you will write a letter to the teacher you are going to have next year. You will explain to the teacher what you think you do well as a writer. You may also tell what you think you are getting better at in writing. You will also choose a favorite piece of writing from your folder and attach it to your letter.

**Purpose:** Your purpose in this letter is to explain to a teacher the skills that make you a good writer or the things you think you are doing better as a writer.

**Writer's Role:** You are writing as yourself, a young writer who is getting better and better at putting ideas into writing.

**Audience:** Your audience is next year's teacher. Remember, the teacher does not know you well. Your letter must tell the teacher what you think about your own writing and give specific details to explain your views.

**Form:** This will be a friendly letter with a piece of writing from your writing folder attached to it. You will begin your letter:

Dear Next Year's Teacher,

- Focus Correction Areas:**
1. Three Skills and Examples (describe three writing skills you feel you are good at or ones you are improving at; give an example of each)
  2. Best Writing and Why (describe the attached piece of writing, and explain why you chose it)
  3. (To be determined)


**Procedures:** Before writing the letter, you will do several activities in class:

- Type One Writing: Write five lines or more about what you think makes someone a good writer.
- Review the writing you have in your folder. Choose a piece of writing that you think is an example of your best work. To choose your best piece, think about it:
  - Which piece did I work on the hardest?
  - Which piece am I proudest of?
  - Which writing can I say I did an excellent job with \_\_\_\_\_ (telling a story, having a surprise ending, using dialogue, getting my opinion stated clearly, giving good reasons or details, getting my directions in perfect order, or some other skill).
- Complete the Focus Sheet About My Writing.
- Draft your letter.
- Read your draft in a one-foot voice, and make any changes you feel will improve your letter.

- Work with a partner, and get feedback on your letter; double-check your FCAs to make sure you have done a good job in those areas.
- Write a second draft that includes all the improvements you have made.

# About My Writing

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 I am getting better at...

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 Favorite topics

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 Best thing I have written

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**Other Information** \_\_\_\_\_

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