



Three steps to writing a letter to a leader

Step 1: Read-aloud

Use a leader's profile in any of the "Leading Healthy Change" books for an interactive read-aloud exercise. As you read, stop often and ask students (1) questions on basic stated information and (2) questions which require analysis. Examples:

<i>Basic stated information questions</i>	<i>Questions requiring analysis</i>
<i>What does this leader do?</i>	<i>Why is this important, do you think?</i>
<i>Whom does she work with?</i>	<i>Do you know anybody whom you could imagine working with her?</i>
<i>What are some ways she helps people?</i>	<i>Would you like to do this kind of work? Why? Or why not?</i>

Step 2: Formulating an opinion

Using chart paper and sentence starters that invite students to form opinions, **formulate an opinion-based main topic** for your letter. You will need to guide students directly, so they create statements which state opinions rather than restate facts. Example: "Lily Yeh is a hero" rather than "Lily Yeh is an artist." You can encourage students to ask who or what the health leader reminds them of, or what words they would describe a health leader's work.

Step 3: Drafting a class letter

Use a cloze sentence / sentence starters on chart paper. Include formal genre requirements and the opinion students formulated in step 2. These will form the basis of a draft letter to your chosen Health Leader. Point out the features of the letter you want your students to know: salutation, date, etc., regardless of students' abilities, the letter can include:

- Both facts and opinions
- Text-based evidence developing the facts and substantiating the opinions
- Student signatures in closing



Dear _____,

We are the students of _____

_____. We read about the work you

do with _____

_____. We think this work is

important because _____

_____. If you

weren't there, then _____

_____. The best

part of your work is the _____

_____.

One question we have for you is: _____

_____?

Thank you for doing what you do!

Your friends,

_____,

_____,
