



Letter to a Health Leader

NOTE: Teachers should decide, as per the needs of their students to use the options for BHA (Beginning Health Advocates) or AHA (Advanced Health Advocates), depending on the students' prior experiences with Healthy NewsWorks and students' developmental/ability levels.

Objective(s)	<p>BHA: SWBAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the work of one Health Leader. • Draft a collective letter to this leader, following genre-appropriate conventions. • Provide facts and details to back up their opinion. <p>AHA: SWBAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a friendly letter stating a personal opinion, and use genre-appropriate conventions. • Provide facts and details to back up his/her opinion.
Standards Addressed	<p>W.5.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.</p> <p>SL.5.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on <i>grade 5 topics and texts</i>, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.</p> <p>W.5.1.A Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which ideas are logically grouped to support the writer's purpose.</p>
Essential Question	How do Health Leaders make a difference in the community?
Essential Understandings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Readers develop opinions about what they read. 2. Readers articulate and write responses, and develop connections to Health Leaders described in trustworthy news publications.
Key Vocabulary	<p>fact – a small bit of information, data</p> <p>opinion – a belief, thought, or feeling</p>
Materials Needed	<p>“Leading Healthy Change In Our Community” book (Your school has copies of the “Leading Healthy Change” books. You can also find the online version at: healthynewsworks.org/books/about-the-book-project/)</p> <p>Chart paper (or smart board/projector)</p> <p>BHA: Health Leader letter (cloze)</p> <p>AHA: Letter to a Leader handout (Healthy NewsWorks), titled: Your Assignment: Write a letter to a health leader</p>
Introduction	<p>Read aloud: Use a leader’s profile in any of the "Leading Healthy Change" books for an interactive read aloud exercise.</p> <p>As you read, stop and ask students questions about basic stated information (<i>What does this leader do? Whom does she work with? What are some ways she helps people?</i>) Also ask them questions which require analysis (<i>Why is this important, do you think? Do you know anybody whom you could imagine working with her? Would you like to do this kind of work? Why? Or why not?</i>).</p>



Lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 by asking who or what the health leader reminds them of, or what words they would describe a health leader’s work.• Drafting a class letter: Pre-write a blank cloze (fill in the blank format for letter writing) on chart paper, or project it onto a smart board and work with students to think of appropriate details and ideas for each section. Include the opinion students already formulated. This will form the basis of a draft letter from the class to the 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:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Both facts and opinions• Text-based evidence developing the facts and substantiating the opinions• Student signatures in closing <p>Consider sending your letter to the leader. You might get a response!</p>
Dig Deeper (for AHA)	<p>After reading the chapter aloud, students can work alone, with partners or in small groups to prewrite: Who is the Health Leader? What work does s/he do? Why was s/he drawn to this type of work? What about this work and this leader do you find interesting/ compelling/ important?</p> <p>Then, they can draft using online “letter generator” or provided model as needed. Either use Healthy NewsWorks’ Letter to a Leader handout or Letter to a Health Leader cloze sheet (fill in the blank format).</p>
Health Journal Assignment	<p>Who is another Health Leader you may want to write a letter to? Why?</p>
Check for Understanding	<p>Read through students’ letters to gauge student understanding of the letter writing process. Provide support individually or in small groups.</p>



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Assignment: Writing to a health leader

Dear _____, _____(date)

I am _____

After reading _____

I have come to believe _____
(my opinion about you and / or your work).

The facts speak for themselves.

For example, first, you _____

Also, you _____



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Finally, you _____

I wonder: _____
(What would happen to people without you? Why did you start this work?)

I believe you make a difference because _____

Your work makes me want to _____

Thank you for _____.
You have helped me by _____

Yours truly,