



Writer to Writer Challenge

HELPFUL HINTS!

LETTER DUE: June 30, 2007

■ **Don't forget your brain exercises!**

For 2 minutes write whatever comes into your head – even if you just write the same thing over & over again. OBJECT: To write without stopping.

■ **Pick a book or use the book on tape**

■ **While reading the book keep in the back of your mind the purpose for writing your letter. It is to tell the author how their book influenced you to change the way of seeing yourself and / or the world around you.**

Make a connection between yourself and a character or an event in the story.

Remember the meaning influence:

to move a person into action or to effect a person

■ **There are basically 3 parts to writing:**

1. PRE-WRITING: Gathering tools, thoughts, ideas together

Either you write or have someone else write down what you are saying

Write or tell your ideas, thoughts, and underline in the book

Underline in pencil

Write or tell how the book relates to your own struggles and how you are feeling while reading the book

Keep a notepad & pen by your bed to write down your ideas when first waking up or if you wake up at night

Keep a notepad with you during the day



2. WRITING: Now is the time to organize things and put them down on paper

Remember, if your brain works faster than your hand can write or fingers can type:

Talk into a tape recorder and copy it off of the tape

Ask someone to write while you talk

The most important thing is to get your thoughts and ideas down on paper as fast as you can

Three points to use when writing:

∞ A good opening sentence or paragraph – something that will hook your reader to make them want to read more. It is like the old saying, “Curiosity killed the cat but satisfaction brought it back.”

∞ Stir up your readers’ emotions so they can feel exactly what you want them to feel (sad, happy, relief, joy). You can make this happen by writing from your heart. If need be, re-read or re-listen to the parts of the book that made you feel sad or happy so you get back in that mood again.

∞ The ending paragraph should briefly recap how the book influenced you to changed the way of seeing yourself and /or the world around you

Some of the tools you might use: a favorite pen, a dictionary and a thesaurus.

3. EDITING: Rewrite, rewrite, rewrite!

- Read your letter out loud
- Have your tutor check it
- Ask someone else to read your letter

Read the winning entries to see some examples of letters to authors.

YOU ARE A WRITER!
DON'T GET DISCOURAGED & DON'T GIVE UP!



One More Helpful Hint!

MIND MAPPING

Mind Mapping is a quick creative way to put ideas down on paper.

1. Draw a circle in the center of the paper and put the name of the book.
2. All around the circle write down or have someone write down all your thoughts, emotions and anything else you might want to tell the author.

Don't worry about how silly your ideas are or where they will fit into your letter.

3. When you begin to form your letter, check back and see which ideas you could use in your letter.
4. Cross off the ones that you have used. You do not have to use every idea.

