

Student-to-Family Letters

Ideas

Dear _____ ,

Please help me make my writing's **IDEA** (the main message) clear and interesting. Will you listen as I read my paper to you and then answer these questions?

1. What is my paper's main idea?
2. What is your favorite detail?
3. Do I need to add anything to make my idea clearer or more interesting?

Thank you for your help!

Organization

Dear _____ ,

Please help me make my writing's **ORGANIZATION** (the order and structure) work well. Will you listen as I read my paper to you and then answer these questions?

1. What do you like about my beginning?
2. Which words show that I have put my details in a logical order?
3. How well does the ending wrap up my message?

Thank you for your help!

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Voice

Dear _____ ,

Please help me make my writing's **VOICE** (the tone and energy) stand out. Will you listen as I read my paper to you and then answer these questions?

1. What words and phrases sound like me and *only* me?
2. What point in my paper has the most voice?
3. What point in my paper shows how much I care about this topic?

Thank you for your help!

Word Choice

Dear _____ ,

Please help me make my writing's **WORD CHOICE** (the colorful, interesting vocabulary) shine. Will you listen as I read my paper to you and then answer these questions?

1. What is your favorite word or phrase in this paper?
2. What verb stands out?
3. What point in my paper helped you to create a picture in your mind?

Thank you for your help!

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Sentence Fluency

Dear _____,

Please help me make my writing's **SENTENCE FLUENCY** (the flow of words and phrases) smooth. Will you listen as I read my paper to you and then answer these questions?

1. What is your favorite sentence or phrase in this paper?
2. Do my sentences start in different ways—or do they all pretty much start the same way?
3. Are my sentences different lengths? Which one is the shortest? The longest?

Thank you for your help!

Conventions

Dear _____,

Please help me make my writing's **CONVENTIONS** (the spelling, capitalization, and punctuation) correct. Will you read my paper and then answer these questions?

1. Can you point out a hard word that I spelled correctly?
2. Can you point to a place that shows I know how to capitalize words?
3. How is my punctuation? Did I use it accurately?

Thank you for your help!

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Presentation

Dear _____ ,

Please help me make my writing's **PRESENTATION** (the overall appearance) stand out. Will you look at my paper and then answer these questions?

1. Which line shows my best handwriting?
2. Is the spacing between my letters, words, and lines even?
3. Is this paper clean and easy to read, or do I still need to take care of cross-outs and smudges?

Thank you for your help!

Traits of Writing

Dear _____ ,

Please help me make my writing as strong as possible. Will you listen as I read my paper to you and then answer these questions?

1. What is something I did well in this paper?
2. What is something you think I should work on?
3. Did I try something new that shows how much I am learning about writing? Can you name it?

Thank you for your help!