**Response to Video: Writing on Purpose**

1. **What did the students in the video learn through the letter-writing assignment?**  
   The students learned the value of meaningful communication and reflection through the art of letter writing. They gained insight into expressing empathy, crafting thoughtful messages, and developing deeper connections with their pen pals from different social and educational backgrounds.
2. **How did the teacher encourage empathy through the letter-writing assignment?**  
   The teacher emphasized crafting thoughtful letters that required the students to consider the perspectives and feelings of their pen pals. By encouraging students to reflect and compose their letters carefully, the assignment fostered understanding and empathy, helping them relate to peers from contrasting experiences and environments.
3. **How did the letter-writing assignment help the students develop their own writer's voice?**  
   The assignment required students to write authentically and connect with their audience, allowing them to discover and refine their personal voice. As students like Jacobe, Raphael, and Jordan shared their thoughts and feelings, they learned how to express themselves confidently and purposefully.
4. **How can the art of letter writing help students develop a deeper understanding of themselves and others?**  
   Letter writing requires introspection and deliberate thought, which helps students better articulate their experiences and understand their emotional responses. Simultaneously, writing for someone else fosters an appreciation for differing perspectives, enabling students to build mutual respect and awareness.
5. **How might the letter-writing assignment contribute to the students' overall character development?**  
   The assignment helped students grow as individuals by teaching them patience, responsibility, and compassion. They developed leadership qualities like Jacobe realizing the importance of mentoring others, and practical skills, like Raphael discovering how to leverage his auditory strengths in writing. This growth contributed to their self-confidence and maturity.