

Personal Letter

Using a **letter format** similar to the one I use in my example (back of page), write a letter to me about yourself. Please write your letter as a Google Doc on your Drive.

You may write as much as you want, but you must write a **minimum of two paragraphs**, keeping in mind that one paragraph should be roughly 5-7 sentences.

This is a way for me to get to know you, and to get to know your writing. Please take your time and do your best. Included below are some ideas for topics you could cover. You may use any or all of these, but you may also cover any topics of your own choosing. The only topic that is required is the first one: You must introduce yourself.

Please do your best to **WRITE A LETTER**. Do not write simple answers to questions, and do not write a list or a story—it should be cohesive.

Dear Ms. Clark,

- Introduce yourself (name, where you're from, brothers/sisters/family, interesting facts about you, etc.).
- Tell me what you do outside of school (hobbies, interests, etc.)
- Tell me what you do and do not like about school. What subjects do you like? Which do you hate? Which ones come easily? Which ones are the most challenging? This could be about specific things in any class, or about general subject areas.
- What are your plans for your future? Do you plan to go to college? To work? Do you have a particular field of interest, or a dream job?
- How would you rate yourself as a reader? Would you say that you are good at reading? Do you enjoy reading? Do you have any particular challenges or problems with reading?
- What kinds of things would you like to read in this class? What do you read outside of class? Do you have a favorite author or genre?
- How do you think of yourself as a writer? (Or DO you think of yourself as a writer?) What would you say your strengths and weaknesses are? What kinds of things do you like to write (poems, stories, essays, grocery lists—whatever)?
- If you have any questions or requests for me, please include them.

Sincerely,

Your Name

When you're done, share your document with me at JennaLFClark@gmail.com so that I can read it. **The letter is due** _____.

Dear Students,

Welcome to English class! My name is Ms. Clark, and I'm in my fourth year of teaching here at HHS. I'm also an HHS graduate—Class of 2002— so when I returned to Helena after completing graduate school at the University of Oregon, it felt pretty good to be back home. I now get to live near my family: my sister and her fiancé are here, as are my parents, and my brother lives in Bozeman. Plus, after many years of renting apartments, I finally live in a house where I get to own a cat. I adopted him three years ago, and named him after one of my favorite authors: Charles Dickens.

In our spare time, Charlie and I like to read and watch movies (okay, he doesn't really care about these things), and I like to travel during the summers whenever I can. I went to college at the University of Montana in Missoula, and was able to participate in one of their study abroad programs to Wales; I've been hooked on travel ever since. I've been to Italy, England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Australia, Spain, and most recently Texas, which might have been the most foreign of all in some ways. I visited Alberta, Canada when I was younger, too, but that's so close to home that I'm not sure it really counts.

When I'm not able to travel, though, books and movies make for a great way to "visit" other places. I love all kinds of movies, new and old; in fact, sometimes I think I like the older ones even better because they're like living history! My favorite books are science fiction and fantasy, but (in keeping with my love for history) I also enjoy a lot of classics, like Shakespeare's plays, and Jane Austen's novels. I'm currently reading the new Harper Lee book, which is the sequel to *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and I have a few others in the pile on my nightstand, waiting to be read.

I'm really looking forward to getting to know you over the course of this year. There have been a lot of changes over the summer, including the addition of the new British Literature course for second semester, so we'll get to experiment with some new ideas this year. I think we'll all learn a lot, and hopefully have some fun while we're at it.

Sincerely,

Ms. Clark