

Writer's Workshop: Writing a Letter to a Writer

Now that you have read an essay by one of your classmates, write him/her a letter describing the experience of reading the essay. The following are things to think about when you write your letter:

1. What do you think is the main idea or most important message of the essay?
2. How did the writer make his/her essay come alive for you? What details and examples did he/she include that were the most effective?
3. How did the essay make you feel and why?
4. Were you confused by anything in the essay? Where does the writer need to provide more details and examples?
5. What emotions does the writer convey in the essay? How?
6. What conclusions does the writer make in the essay? If someone asked you "what is so and so's essay about?" What would you say?
7. What suggestions do you have for the writer? (Please note: if your Letter to the Writer only includes positive comments and you offer the writer no suggestions for revision, you will not be helping him or her. All writers revise.)

Your letter can begin: "Dear _____". Please give your letter to the writer at the end of this class so that he/she can use it in the revision process.

The writer will attach the letters that she/he received with the drafts of the essay and turn everything in on the due date. I want to be able to see 1) all drafts of the essay in reverse chronological order and 2) the letters you received from your fellow classmates.