

“Dear President” Mentor Text

The Mentor Text below was written by Mari Copeny who, at eight years old, wrote a letter to President Obama — and received a personal response from the former president!

Read Mari’s letter below. Notice how she shares who she is, where she is from, and what matters most to her and her community. Notice also how she includes a request, or call to action, in her letter. You can read President Obama’s response at: <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov>.

Mari’s Letter to President Obama:

Mr. President,

Hello my name is Mari Copeny and I’m 8 years old, I live in Flint, Michigan and I’m more commonly known around town as “Little Miss Flint”. I am one of the children that is effected by this water, and I’ve been doing my best to march in protest and to speak out for all the kids that live here in Flint. This Thursday I will be riding a bus to Washington, D.C. to watch the congressional hearings of our Governor Rick Snyder. I know this is probably an odd request but I would love for a chance to meet you or your wife. My mom said chances are you will be too busy with more important things, but there is a lot of people coming on these buses and even just a meeting from you or your wife would really lift people’s spirits. Thank you for all that do for our country. I look forward to being able to come to Washington and to be able to see Gov. Snyder in person and to be able to be in the city where you live.

Thank You

Mari Copeny

Source: <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov>

Your Letter: Brainstorming

Now, it's your turn. What message do you have for the next President of the United States? Answer the questions below to start brainstorming ideas. Continue in your writing journal if you need more space.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Introduction <i>This is your chance to show who you are! Add a few personal details that go beyond the basics: your name, age, and where you live.</i></p> | <p>What do I love most? _____ _____</p> <p>How do I help my family, school, and/or community? _____ _____</p> <p>What makes me, me? How do other people describe me? _____ _____</p> |
| <p>Letter Body <i>Share why are you writing, and why this issue matters to you and your community.</i></p> | <p>What issues impact me and/or my family? _____ _____</p> <p>What issues impact my community (school, neighborhood, etc.)? _____ _____</p> <p>What issues impact my state or country? _____ _____</p> <p>How can the president help with these issues? This will become your call to action — think of specific ideas! _____ _____</p> |
| <p>Conclusion <i>Wrap up your letter by sharing an appreciation and a hope for the future.</i></p> | <p>Thank you for... _____</p> <p>I hope... _____ _____</p> |

Your Letter: Freewrite

Next, pick **one** of the issues you brainstormed for the body of your letter. Take 5-10 minutes to freewrite to the following prompts:

Why does this issue matter to me? Why should this issue matter to the next President of our country?

You can use the space below or write in your journal.

Write Your Letter!

Write a first draft of your letter, using ideas from your brainstorm and freewrite. You can use the template below to help you get started and organize your letter, but remember to make the letter uniquely your own by sharing your story and your voice.

Introduction

Dear President,

My name is...(share your name, age, and where you live)

One thing you should know about me is...

Body

I'm writing to share my story about an issue that has impacted (me / my family / my community)...

This matters to me because...

President, I ask that you support by...

Write Your Letter! Continued

Write a first draft of your letter, using ideas from your brainstorm and freewrite. You can use the template below to help you get started and organize your letter, but remember to make the letter uniquely your own by sharing your story and your voice.

Conclusion

Thank you for...

I hope that...

Sincerely,
