Letter to My Future Me

One of the greatest treats I experience as a teacher is the opportunity to watch and participate in the lives of my students while they undergo the massive transformations that occur during your middle school years. Unfortunately, you, my students, are too close to the process to really appreciate how much you grow and mature while you study and work here at Milwee.

This assignment has two purposes: First, to learn the basics of the lost art of writing a proper handwritten letter. Second, to take a snapshot of who you are or perhaps who you think you are on this particular day near the end of your sixth grade year so that two years from now you can hear your 6th grade voice and, hopefully, appreciate how far you have traveled.

Dear Munchkin,

Personal letters should be conversational, detailed, and neat. The best letters share news and information, mix good with bad news, and ask smart questions of the recipient. Include only information that won’t get you into trouble if the letter should be accidentally shared with others. Finally, try to end your letter on a positive note.

Be sure that the heading, salutation, body, closing, and signature follow the correct form. The heading should include your address followed by the date and is written in the upper right corner of the paper. Salutations for personal letters are usually written with ‘Dear’ followed by the recipient’s first name and are placed on the left side of the paper on the line below your heading. The body of the letter should be written neatly and broken into paragraphs that help the reader understand the topics you are discussing. The closing should be placed on the right, below your last body paragraph. Closings vary but can include Sincerely, Sincerely yours, Love, As always, etc. They should be followed by a comma and, on the next line, your first name or a nickname that you are known by.

Remember, the letter you write today is meant to share with your future self who you are today. Be thoughtful, be honest, and be detailed. We have studied a wide variety of ways to capture exactly the feelings and ideas we want to share including metaphors, allusions, hyperbole, etc. We studied these tools so that you would have them to help you express your ideas. Use them today and your future self will thank you.

It has been an honor to call myself your teacher these past months and know that I will miss having you in my classes. My door is always open to you and I hope to have you barging into my classes, drawing on my board, and otherwise harassing me and my students for years to come. Be well, do good work, and keep in touch.

Sincerely yours,
Mr. B

P.S. Post Scripts, like this one, can be used to add a bit of information you forgot to share or to add a pithy or witty remark to the end of the letter. Remember to try to be positive. 😊
Letter to My Future Me

Directions: Your task is to compose a letter to yourself that follows the format of the letter on the first page. Your letter needs to be conversational, detailed, and neat. It should be at least one full page in length; longer letters are fine. Here are some questions you might be interested in knowing the answers to in a few years.

- Who are you? What do you like to do? Who is your favorite artist? What was the best movie you saw this year? What have you done that you are proud of?
- Who are your friends? What do you do together? Why do you call them your friends? (Sometimes a hard question to answer.) Are you a social butterfly who knows everyone or are you more like me and have a handful of close friends? Are you happy with that or would like to change your social circles in the years to come?
- Describe the academic side of 6th grade. How did the experience of 6th grade compare to your expectations for middle school? What was your favorite class and why? Which class are you happy to put in your rear view mirror? What was the most important, eye opening, inspiring lesson you learned this year?
- Write about your future. What do you want to do better in the years to come? Do you want more friends? Do you want to get straight A’s? Do you want to improve your skills in an area? What are you excited to learn more about? What plans do you have for high school? What plans do you have for the years beyond that?
- Closing thoughts. What is your best memory from this year? What do you want to remember about this year when you are old and gray?

Grading: Yes, you are going to get a grade for this assignment. I will skim each and every letter that is turned in. I’ll be looking for letters that have meaningful content, are well written and include figurative and sensory language, and are neat and easily read. I promise not read them too closely so feel free to be honest about your experiences but, please, avoid putting anything in your letter that I would be obligated to share with the powers that be.

Letter to a Teacher that Mattered

Directions: OK, now that you know how to write a proper letter and you’ve had a chance to practice, it’s time to put your skills into action. You will now write a letter to a teacher that matters, a teacher who, in some way, had a profound impact on you. It can be any teacher you have ever had even one that teaches in another school, county, state, or country.

Your letter should be conversational, detailed, and neat. Use Milwee’s address for your letter (you can find it on the first page in the sample letter).

Teachers do the job because of the students they get to work with. Getting a note from a former student is one of the most wonderful parts of our job. Try to be specific about experiences or lessons that you experienced in their class. This increases the impact of your letter and will help them remember who you are.

Grading: Yes, this too will be a grade. Again, I will be looking for letters that have meaningful content, are well written and include figurative and sensory language, and are neat and easily read.

Bonus: If you address the envelope to the teacher and include which school you attended at the time, I will do everything I can to get your letter to them.