

Persuasive Letter

Long ago, the only form of long-distance communication was the personal letter. Family and friends, separated by hundreds or even thousands of miles, would keep in touch with each other by writing letters. Letters were delivered on foot, by horse, or by carriage here in America, but for Colonists wishing to "speak" to loved ones back home in England, well...those letters would need to cross the mighty Atlantic Ocean before they arrived at their final destination. As you can well imagine, this was a timely process, and folks waited for their special correspondences with great anticipation, interest, and delight.

Letter writing is considered by many to be a lost art form, but you are going to change that as you complete this.

If you have chosen to create this visual, here is your task:

Imagine you are living in 17th century America. You emigrated to the colonies some time ago, having survived the difficult journey across the sea, and have managed to scratch out a living for yourself. Your life in America may be challenging at times, but overall, you are content. You do, however, miss your family and friends back home in England, and so when you write your next letter home, you decide to persuade a loved one to join you in the new world.

Procedure:

1. In order to write a powerful letter, you must use historical facts to support your opinion. You may want to complete a concept web as prewriting before you begin your research.
2. Conduct some in-depth research on the region your group has chosen.
3. As you gather your information, keep the difference between fact and opinion in mind. Facts are statements that can be proved by research or direct observations. Statements that cannot be proved are considered opinions. Although you are writing a letter based on opinion, in order to be truly convincing, you should concentrate on the facts. Opinions alone will not win over your audience.
4. Follow the four steps to writing a persuasive letter. Although you are writing a letter with an intent to persuade, don't forget that this letter is also "friendly" in nature. Don't be afraid to use a conversational, familiar tone with the reader. After all, you may be speaking to Mother, or Brother, or dear Cousin Lucy!
5. When you have finished writing your letter, remember to proofread and edit your work.