

Scaffolding

Talking about Text Quality

(Source: The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress)

Letters About Literature <http://read.gov/letters/>)

Writing a *Letter About Literature* challenges you (as a team) to respond to what you have read, to develop and express your responses to a work of literature in detail, to craft your thoughts with powerful language, and to practice a very important writing skill - targeting a specific audience (here: the author).

Task: As a team, use the following worksheets provided by *The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress* to help you meet this challenge. Please do all the 'compulsory' worksheets and choose at least two from the optional ones. Make the most of the fact that you have the chance to work as a team, i.e. you may distribute the worksheets amongst yourselves and then instruct each other.

Compulsory	Optional
<p><u>Worksheet 1: Correspond, Don't Compliment!</u> <u>Focus:</u> The distinction between fan letters and thoughtful correspondence.</p>	<p><u>Worksheet 3: The Lead Paragraph - How to Hook the Reader in 25 Words or Less!</u> <u>Focus:</u> Creating introductory passages which are interesting and focused.</p>
<p><u>Worksheet 2: Sythesize, Don't Summarize!</u> <u>Focus:</u> The distinction between summarizing what happened or sythesizing (here: responding to what happened by weaving in details about the reader's own life, thus keeping the audience in mind).</p>	<p><u>Worksheet 4: Bookends (...or how to close your letter)</u> <u>Focus:</u> Opening and closing paragraphs; the difference between 'lit-crit' (literature analysis) exam and the particular writing assignment called <i>Letters About Literature</i>.</p>
<p><u>Worksheet 6: Letter Writing Format & Rubric</u> <u>Focus:</u> characteristic features of formal letters.</p>	<p><u>Worksheet 5: A Few Words About Vocabulary</u> <u>Focus:</u> Creating language awareness concerning choice of vocabulary and style.</p>
	<p><u>Worksheet 7: You be the Judge!</u> <u>Focus:</u> Proofreading / revising worksheets 1-6</p>
	<p><u>Worksheet 8: Beware of Dead Ends and Detours!</u> <u>Focus:</u> Avoiding roadblock and detours in writing: staying focused/thematic structure.</p>