

OCT. 7 STUDENT LETTER WRITING PROMPT

As we approach three years since the October 7 attacks, we stand firm in our support of both Israel and the Jewish people. One way we can support other students and families who are grieving is by sending letters expressing our commitment to and prayer for freedom and peace throughout Israel.

Below is an example of a letter we can send. Choose the questions that help you tell your story: about you, your country and culture, and what you hope to learn from your new friend. Keep it short, be curious, and write with kindness. End by letting them know they are not alone and have a friend in the United States.

For your safety, use your first name only and leave out your address, phone number, and personal social media. Give your finished letter to your teacher or coordinator, and share the prompt with at least two friends so they can write one as well.

Most importantly, be yourself, be curious, and write with kindness.

Start your letter with:

To my new friend in Israel, my name is _____, and I live and go to school in _____.

Paragraph 1 — Get to Know Me

Tell your new friend a little about yourself. You might include:

- What is your name?
- Where are you from?
- What do you like to do for fun?
- What is your favorite sport?
- What kind of music do you enjoy?
- What is your favorite movie or TV show?
- What are you studying or interested in studying?
- What are your hopes and dreams for the future?
- Who has had the biggest influence on your life?
- What is something that is really important to you?

Paragraph 2 — My Country and My Culture

Help your new friend learn more about where you live. You might include:

- What is something you love about your country?
- What is your favorite food?
- What holiday or celebration is important to your family?

- What is school like where you live?
- What is one place in your country that everyone should visit? Why?
- If your new friend visited you, what would you take them to see first?
- What is something you could teach your new friend about your culture?

Paragraph 3 – Becoming Friends

Use this paragraph to ask questions and share what you hope to learn from your new friend.

- What would you like to learn about Israel?
- What do you think would surprise you if you visited Israel or if they visited the United States?
- What would you want to do together if we could visit each other's countries?
- What do you hope people remember about you?
- What is one thing you hope for the future?

Closer: PLEASE LET THEM KNOW, THEY ARE NOT ALONE. THEY HAVE A FRIEND IN THE UNITED STATES. Remember the theme: Many students, one goal. The goal is love.

SAMPLE LETTER:

To my new friend in Israel,

My name is Jordan, and I live and go to school in San Antonio, Texas.

Currently, I enjoy studying World Geography and History, and I hope to become a teacher one day in order to help students learn about Israel. CUFI High School has had a great influence on me to learn more about everything that is going on in Israel. I would love to be able to visit one day.

Where I am from, there are many hills and its very hot all the time. Our town is mostly known for the Alamo, but many people enjoy eating here too. If you were to visit my hometown, I would take you to my favorite restaurants so you could experience them for yourself.

What I've heard and seen about Israel is that it has a similar set up to my town, though I think I would be surprised at how much history and archeology discoveries there are in Israel. What is something you would recommend I see or experience if I were to visit?

Though we haven't met in person, I want you to know you are not alone. You have a friend in me, and many others in America, and I pray for a peaceful and bright future for you.

Your friend,
Jordan