

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

From Me to You



- Student Activity: Places in the News
- Student Activity: Thank you, Grandma
- Student Activity: Write a Letter of Appreciation
- Post Reprint: "Ageless love letters"

Places in the News

Through the pages of the daily newspaper you are taken to many places within the United States and around the globe. These destinations may be small towns or large cities. They are urban, suburban and rural locations. Some of the places are found in the dateline. Others are found in the photo caption or the article.



DATELINE The dateline is found at the beginning of an article. It indicates the place — where the reporter was. When there is no dateline, readers know the article was written at the offices of the newspaper. Dateline usually is written in ALL CAPS.

1. Read today's newspaper to find where news is taking place. List the places below.

2. Locate on a map five places where news is happening outside the D.C. Metropolitan area.
A. On what continents are they located?

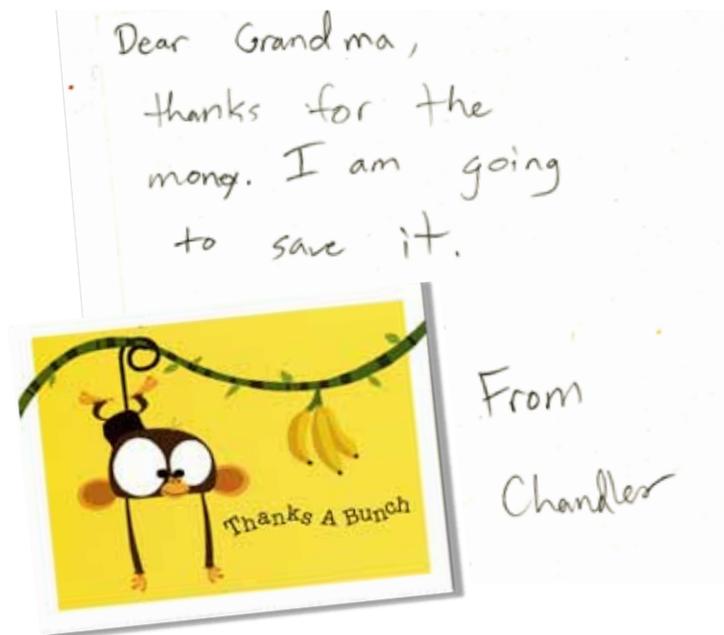
B. Which place is closest to where you live?

A
B
C
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E
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T
U
V
W
X
Y
Z

Thank you, Grandma

Can you remember when you first said “thank you” to someone? Some children are told at the time a polite word of gratefulness is expected: “Tell Grandma thank you.” Others of you may have had an etiquette lesson as you sat around the dinner table: “When your mother cooks a nice dinner for us, we should tell her thank you.” Perhaps, you recall sitting at the table the day or week after your birthday with paper and pen, having been told to write a thank you note to everyone who gave you a gift.

THANK YOU NOTES



Dear Grandma Ena, Thank you so much for the \$20. I love it. I have \$106 now. My favorite new class is science. Yesterday it showed a little bit. Anyway, I Love you!

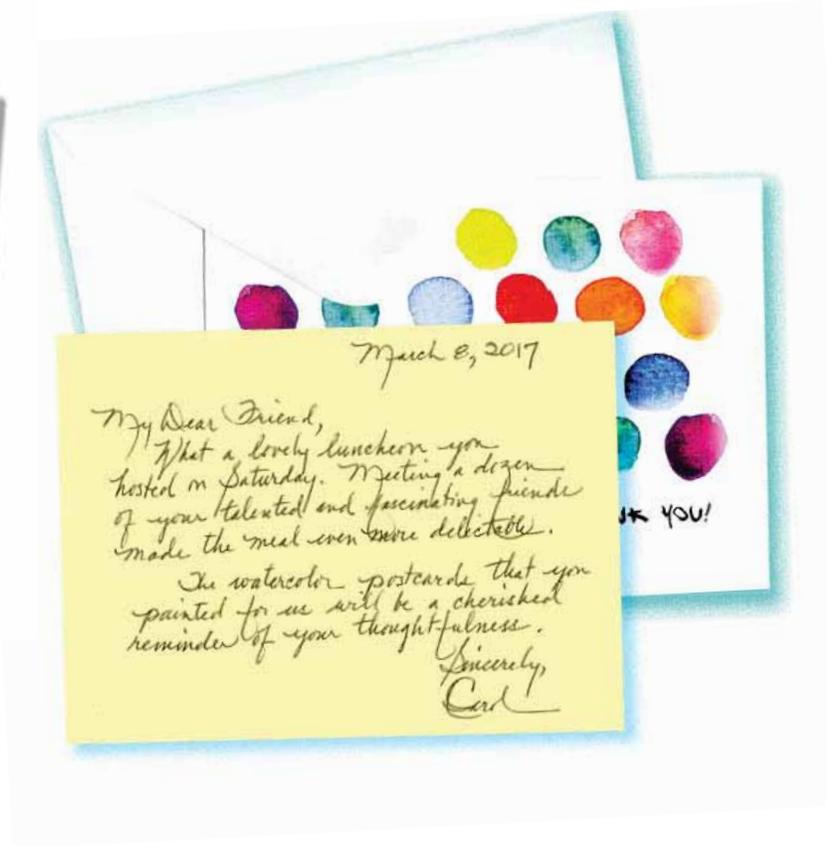
-Derek ☺



1. The salutation line begins “Dear.” You show respect in a salutation. You are also clearly indicating whom you want to read the message. Write salutations to three different people.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
2. Business letters always include a date. Why is it important to indicate the date a letter is written?
3. The writers of the thank you notes did not include the date. Why would it be a good idea to include the date in a personal note?

Name _____

Date _____



4. Thank you notes should state the reason you are grateful. You may include additional information to be more conversational.
- A. For what are the four writers thankful?
- B. Their grandmothers and aunts would appreciate both notes. Which writer do you think wrote the best note? Why?
5. The closing should reflect the personal relation between the writer and the note's recipient. Thank you notes often close with "Love," "Your loving granddaughter," or "Sincerely." If the two have a special phrase that they share, it may be used. Write a personal thank you note. Be sure to include date, salutation and closing.

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LETTER OF APPRECIATION



S. F. Dodson
of Darlington Heights,
Prince Edward Co., Va.,
January 7, 1903

Darlington Heights,
Prince Edward Co. Va
Nov. 17, 1892

Dear Miss Bellows,-
I rec'd your letter
a few days ago, and
in reply, I can say I
that rec'd the Journal
Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. &
May, and the May is
the last one
that I received. I
would be glad to have
it again, and will read
it. I read the 5 issues
that I rec'd last winter
& was sorry when it
stopped coming. In

last-
if pro
woul
but-
prev
way
up to
have
minte
As my
Spring
home
then
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Stanhope Dodson graduated from Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia, in 1888. The school maintained a correspondence with its students and expected an annual letter from each in which reports of personal and professional life were shared.

His letters told of his early teaching and farming work as well as his dedication to his church, Temperance Society and family. Letters like his are sources of family, regional and U.S. history.

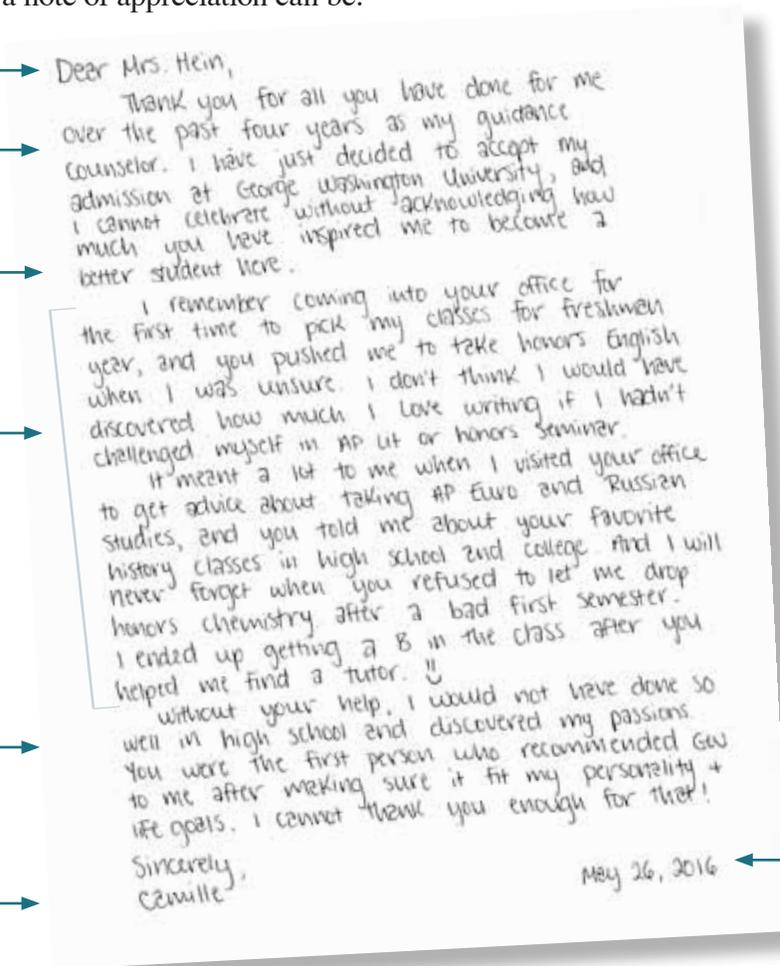
at that time, you and I were corresponding with each other, and arranging for your visit, which myself, wife and children greatly enjoyed. The children often asked me about you, and each one wants to write you a little letter. Now I'll tell of some of the happenings of last year. First of all we had a grand meeting in Nov. We had about twenty conversions of which we were very proud, and felt that we were greatly blessed. We also have had much sickness and many deaths in our community. One man who sat under your voice at our little Church, and one whom appreciated your services so much to this community died suddenly just before I was. Another family who were members of our Church, the father and oldest son died of Typhoid fever and four more of the family had it, but after a hard time have about recovered. The Church and Temperance Society helped them all they could. So you see that my little Tem. Society is not dead. Besides it has done some more benevolent work. I also have had much sickness in my family in the person of my wife.

SOURCE: Hampton University Library

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LETTER OF APPRECIATION

Teachers, custodians and school staff, tutors, receptionists and many others help and serve you. Think how refreshing and meaningful a note of appreciation can be.

✓ **Salutation**✓ **Relation to the recipient and news.**✓ **Appreciation stated.**✓ **Specific examples of the help that was given by the recipient**✓ **Appreciation restated in different words.**✓ **Closing**

Guidance counselors work with students throughout their school years. A note at the end of a term or at graduation, like Camille did, is stronger when the writer recalls advice and special assistance that was given.

✓ **Date**

- Letters were written to Miss Thornton and Mrs. Hein; both were school personnel.
 - How many years apart were the letters written?
 - Why should personal, as well as business, letters provide the date the letter was written?
- Select three examples of diction that reflects the time period in which the letters were written. Explain your selections.
 -
 -
 -
- Notes of appreciation should have the appropriate tone. Compare and contrast the tones used by Stanhope Dodson and Camille in their letters to school personnel.

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LETTER OF APPRECIATION

March 3, 2017

Dear Mr. Lee,

Thank you for your generous contribution to Habitat for Humanity's 2016-2017 fundraiser. This year, our student club collected over \$5,000 for our annual service trip. We will be sending 15 students and five teachers to West Virginia beginning July 10 to build a house for the Jones family.

Additionally, Habitat for Humanity is welcoming donors to a send-off luncheon on Saturday, May 27. We invite you and your family to spend an afternoon meeting our student volunteers and faculty advisors before they embark on the week-long service trip. The luncheon will take place on the south football field from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Please email habitat@hchs.edu to RSVP.

We hope to see you there!

Best,

Camille Ramasastry

Camille Ramasastry

President of Habitat for Humanity, HCHS

1. Writing thank you notes to patrons is a simple way to show appreciation. Why is it important to say thank you to a patron?
2. How does this letter help HCHS Habitat for Humanity and Mr. Lee?
3. Patron letters, much like notes of appreciation, should have the appropriate tone. Describe the tone of this letter. How would the tone vary if Camille were writing to a family member instead?
4. Business letters have a formal structure: Date, inside address, salutation, body, closing. Rewrite the letter to a patron in the business letter format. OR You may select a different recipient if a club, sports team or other group to which you belong should receive a letter of appreciation.

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AMANDA VOISARD FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Library of Congress historian Barbara Bair holds a letter from the poet Walt Whitman to his significant other, Peter Doyle.

curators at the Library of Congress to select some of their favorite love letters.

Adrienne Cannon, African American history and culture specialist for the library's manuscript division, focused on letters written by Lewis Douglass to Helen Amelia Loguen.

"The letters present a beautiful black love story, preserved for posterity," Cannon said. "Lewis Douglass's singular love and devotion for Amelia Loguen inspired him to poetry, helped sustain him through war, and culminated in an enduring marriage."

They would marry after Douglass was honorably discharged from the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry following the Civil War. (His was the regiment depicted in the movie *Glory*.)

Curator Sahr Conway-Lanz, a manuscript historian, chose letters written by President Woodrow Wilson to the widow Edith Bolling Galt. Wilson had fallen in love with Galt a year after the death of his wife, Ellen Axon Wilson, in 1914. Conway-Lanz said the two kept their romance a secret until they were ready to make their engagement public.

"This was clearly tough on both of them," he said. That longing is clear in a July 18, 1915, letter.

"My precious sweetheart: There are so many things I want to say first — but I can't decide where to begin — but as a preliminary I will ease my heart by saying that which is dearest in all the world — and it is — I love you — love you — love you."

One of Wilson's advisers, Conway-Lanz said, wrote: "It seems the president is wholly absorbed in this love affair and is neglecting practically everything else." The couple married Dec. 18, 1915.

Curator Julie Miller, an early American history specialist, picked a now-famous letter by Thomas Jefferson to Maria Cosway, written Oct. 12, 1786, while Jefferson was U.S. ambassador to France. Jefferson was a widower; Cosway was married. But that did not halt the future president.

"He clearly fell in love with her," Miller said.

The 12-page letter is structured as a dialogue between his head and his heart. It is the ambivalence in the correspondence that intrigued Miller.

"Seated by my fire side, solitary and sad, the following dialogue took place between my Head and my Heart.

"Head. Well, friend, you seem to be in a pretty trim.

"Heart. I am indeed the most wretched of all earthly beings. Overwhelmed with grief, every fibre of my frame distended beyond its natural powers to bear, I would willingly meet whatever catastrophe should leave me no more to feel or to fear."

Curator Michelle A. Krowl, a specialist in the Civil War and Reconstruction, selected a letter written by Ulysses S. Grant to

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINTS AND PHOTO DIVISION
Woodrow Wilson was “wholly absorbed” by his love for Edith Bolling Galt, whom he married during his time in the White House.



G.W. BARTLETT/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
Lucy Stone, an early women's rights advocate, is shown in this photograph around 1853.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINTS AND PHOTO DIVISION
Walt Whitman, journalist and poet, volunteers as a nurse during the Civil War in New York and Washington, D.C.

Julia Dent. Grant met Dent when he traveled with his former West Point roommate Frederick Dent to St. Louis. “He was quickly besotted” with Dent’s sister Julia, and they became engaged on May 22, 1844, Krowl said. “But Grant’s military career and her father’s condition that they wait to marry until Grant’s professional life was more stable postponed their marriage.”

In a letter dated Jan. 2, 1846, from Corpus Christi, Tex., Grant, who was growing impatient with their delayed wedding, begs Dent to speak with her father.

“You know Julia what I think we would be justifiable in doing if his consent is still withheld and I hope you think nearly with me. . . . You alone Julia have it in your power to decide whether despite ev[er]ything we carry our engagement

into effect. You have only to decide for me to act. If you will set a tim[e] when I must be in Missouri I will be there no matter if my Reg.t is still in Texas. The matter is one of importance enough to procure a leave of absence, and besides for the love I bear my dear Julia I would not value my commission to[o] highly to resign it. My happiness would be complete if a return mail should bring me a letter setting the time not — far distant — when I might ‘clasp that little hand and call it mine.’

“Your Devoted Lover, Ulysses”

Krowl said Grant’s letters clearly reveal “the depth of his love for Julia and how central she had become to his life.”

Love letters written by famed Hollywood director Rouben Mamoulian to his wife, Azadia, were written from the perspective of their pet cats.

“Rouben and Azadia never had children,” said senior archive specialist Laura J. Kells. “Their cats were their children. . . . When he died there were 40 cats in his Beverly Hills home. He died flea-ridden.”

“We are all independent and free, With each other we never agree, But for once, on this day, all as one we can say: “Will you pet us and feed us? Always love us and need us? Or, in short rain or shine, Be our sweet Valentine?!”

He signed the Feb. 14, 1973, letter “Little Pretty, Naba, Mata Hari, Tigress, Abigayil, Zorro and Chunky.”

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During the Civil War, Walt Whitman moved to Washington, where he met Peter Doyle, a former Confederate soldier. Whitman's letters, including those to Doyle, were recently put online by the Library of Congress.

"They met one stormy night in 1865 when Whitman was the last passenger on Doyle's car," according to the Library Congress exhibit. "To Pete, the poet looked 'like an old sea-captain.' We were familiar at once. I put my hand on his knee — we understood from that time on we were the biggest sort of friends."

"They said it was love at first sight," said Barbara Bair, literature and cultural specialist.

They took long walks. Whitman read Shakespeare to him. Doyle read limericks. In love letters, Whitman referred to Doyle as comrade, son and darling.

Their relationship changed, Bair said, when Whitman suffered a nearly fatal stroke while working late in the Treasury building. He moved to Camden, N.J., to live with his brother and recuperate.

In a letter dated June 20, 1877, Whitman wrote:

"Dear, dear boy Pete I'm stopping here now for a week or two in the house I believe I have mentioned to you before, and where I wanted you to come and see me and still want you if you have a chance. But I spend most of my time down at an old farm down in New Jersey where I have a fine secluded wood and Creek and springs, where I pass my time alone, and yet not lonesome at all (often think of you Pete and put my arm around you and hug you up close, and give you a good buss often.)"

"Your Old Walt."

The profound portrayal of "longing" caused by the distance between the two lovers makes the letter compelling, Bair said.

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Janice E. Ruth, assistant chief in the manuscript division, chose love letters between abolitionist and women's rights advocate Lucy Stone and Henry Blackwell.

Stone initially had no intention of marrying Blackwell, Ruth said, but Blackwell was persistent.

"They decided to use their wedding ceremony as a vehicle for focusing on laws discriminatory to women. Stone kept her maiden name, and they eliminated the marriage vow 'to obey,' and circulated a written protest against the 19th century marriage laws which denied women all legal standing," Ruth said.

In a letter dated Feb. 19, 1855, Stone wrote:

"I received your two letters dearest Harry — the one from Ann Arbor and the other from Battle Creek, on my return from Shalamazoo (where I wrote you last.) A fervent 'thank God,' escaped my lips as I read your deliverance from the railroad disaster. Never until then had I known how dear or how necessary you are to me. But when I reflected how barren life would be to me if you had been killed, how much of its sunshine, and its power of use, would have gone more than ever before, I felt how much I need you."