

Writing Prompt for ELL Letter

You are going to write a letter about yourself and your life in America.

Friendly letter format:

**Your street address
Your city and state
Date**

Dear Zayna,

Paragraph #1 Tell your name and age.

Paragraph #2 Tell Zayna about your family. Tell her your mother's name, your father's name, and the names of your brothers and sisters. Tell her how old they are. Tell her about your chores at home.

Paragraph #3 Tell Zayna the name of your school. Tell her what grade you are in and what you study. Tell her what you like about school.

Paragraph #4 Tell Zayna what you do for fun when you are not in school.

Paragraph #5 Thank her for writing to you. Tell her you liked her letter. This is where you may ask her questions about Syria.

Yours truly,

Your name

Your house number and street name

Your city, state

Today's date

Dear Zayna,

My name is _____, I am happy to get your letter. I want to tell you about my life in _____
_____. I live with my mother, _____, my father,
_____, my brothers named _____ who is _____ years old and
_____ who is _____ years old, and my sisters, _____ who is
_____ years old and _____ who is _____ years old. . My family has a pet
_____ named _____. I like to _____ with my family.

I go to school at _____. I am in the _____ grade. My favorite class is
_____. My goal is to be a _____ because
_____.

I have fun with my friends. We _____. When I am alone I like to
_____.

My favorite foods are _____ and _____.

If you come to where I live, you will see _____, _____, and
_____.

Sincerely,

Your Name

ELL Adaptation of Letter from Zayna

2 Sharia al-Mansour, Abu Roumana
Damascus, Syria
July 4, 2006

Dear American Friend,

Hello. My name is Zayna. I am going to tell you about my life in Syria. I am twelve years old. I have a mother named Fatima. I have a father named Fayez. I have two brothers. Bashar is fourteen years old and Riad is three years old. I love my family very much.

I help my mother at home. This is what we eat for breakfast: olives, tomatoes, cheese, bread, and tea. We call tea “chai”. I like my chai with a lot of sugar.

At school I study reading, writing, math, science, and history. We wear brown uniforms to school. We have homework to do when we get home. When I grow up I want to be a teacher.

I like to play with my friends and cousins. I practice my English with them. We speak Arabic in Syria. Instead of “hi”, we say “salam alaykum”. It means “peace be upon you”. Many people in Syria speak English and Arabic.

My little brother does not go to school. He likes to watch “Open Sesame”. I think you call it “Sesame Street”. I read him books about Big Bird. My older brother wants to be an archaeologist and study the historic places in Syria. My older brother will also go into the army. My father was in the army, too. Girls and women do not go into the army in Syria.

In Syria girls and boys do not go out together alone. They may go out in groups if the families know each other. Some girls wear a “hijab”. A “hijab” is a cloth that covers the hair. I do not wear one, but I might someday. It is to show modesty. Girls and women stay at home until they get married. Sometimes the girl’s parents help to choose her husband.

Our religion is Islam. We go to a mosque on Friday. We are called Muslims. We pray five times a day and we face a holy city called Mecca when we pray.

I hope you write back to me. I want to learn about your country.

Your friend,

Zayna

ELL Adaptation Highlighted

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July 4, 2006

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