

LETTERS ALOUD

2015-16
OUTREACH PROGRAM

Letters Aloud offers a fun 60-90 minute workshop for adults and high school/college students where we break down the basics of letter writing and encourage students to write a letter to their “16-year-old self” (or, for high school students, their “40-year-old-self”). We then present these “Letters Aloud Style” by having actors read them out loud in front of the class.

WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR 16-YEAR-OLD SELF

60-90 minutes, Ages 25+

Introductions:

- Get to know the group. (5-10 minutes)

Writing prompt (10 minutes):

- Write down 10 celebrities (any genre, i.e., movie stars, fictional characters, politicians, religious figures, etc.) whom you greatly admire and why. Short discussion.
- Write down 10 celebrities whom you admired when you were 16 years old and why. Short discussion.

Sample Letters from “Dear Me: A letter to my 16-year-old self” (10-15 minutes):

- Project images of 2-3 real letters written by famous people to their 16-year-old selves.
- Break down one of the letters into the following categories:
 - Structure of letter
 - Humor within letter
 - Heart & soul of letter
 - Message

Assignment: Write a letter to your 16-year-old self. (30 minutes):

- Hand out stationary and pens.
- The letter must include references to two of the celebrities in your top ten list (plus one or two other prompts)
- Teachers will observe, and offer suggestions where needed.

Share (10-15 minutes):

- Students who wish to share may either read the letter in class OR have one of our professional actors read them out loud (via the Letters Aloud show)

Hand out envelopes (with permission slips) and encourage the class to mail their letter...or a letter they write at a future date...to Letters Aloud and we will post the most interesting ones on our website or possibly use them in a future show.