efac EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN

Letter Writing Tips

Thank you for writing to EFAC Scholars! Letters of encouragement and cultural exchange mean so much.

Things to Keep in Mind When Writing:

Students love to hear about you and your family. Remember that these students come from very poor backgrounds, so please be sensitive to that when describing your life (ie, a large home or a lavish vacation). The vast majority of them have experienced hunger and often finding water is a primary concern. Some students may have begged on the streets. Most homes do not have electricity or running water and clothing is secondhand. They know loss, likely of a parent, through death or abandonment. Despite this adversity, EFAC students are amazingly resilient and look to the EFAC community for caring, support, empathy and encouragement.

EFAC Scholars, like most people, need and respond to positive reinforcement. Students report that having someone who believes in them is a big incentive to work hard and do well in school.

Some ideas for topics include:

- Encourage them as they tackle the demands of secondary school
- Ask them what they like about school, extracurriculars, and what they might find challenging
- Describe your family, where you live, your interests and activities, children, pets, etc.
- Explain special holidays and family customs
- Talk about your educational experiences and professional aspirations. They love to hear about different career paths and how they are navigated
- Share your hobbies and passions: reading, hiking, painting, signing, etc.
- Ask questions about their lives, siblings, their home town, etc.
- Invite them to write back and tell you about their plans, hopes and dreams
- Avoid potentially controversial topics, such as politically or socially charged comments

Please do not include your home address, phone number, or email in your letters. All communication to students must go through EFAC.

How and when do I write my letter?

Writing a simple one-page letter is ideal. You are welcome to include a photo or two in your letters, but please keep in mind that letters are printed in black & white at the schools in Kenya.

- E-mail your letter as a Word doc or PDF to sponsors@educationforallchildren.org
- Please name the file with the student's form, EFAC ID #, school, and full name (ie, "Form 2 2341 Alliance Girls Rose Wanjiku.doc")

Together, the U.S. and Kenyan offices manage the letter correspondence between Scholars and sponsors. Correspondence is exchanged 3 times a year (once per term). Sponsors receive letters via email from the EFAC office. We will give you advance notice and deadlines for returning your letters to the EFAC office.





