



My Letter To A Friend

Suggested Grade Level 4

Objective	Students write a letter to a distant friend or relative about food supply veterinarians. Next, they trade papers and reply to each other's letters.
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AVMA poster • Internet access

<p>Procedure</p> <p>National Standards:</p> <p>Language Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and questions • Writing skills <p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science as inquiry • Personal health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher shares facts about food safety and about how veterinarians help protect our food supply. The teacher discusses problems that can arise when food is not inspected and includes examples of assorted dairy and meat items for students to observe during this presentation. • The students make notes about the presentation and their observations to use as content in a letter. Their observations should include the appearance of the foods (color, texture, etc.) and the packaging (plastic, fresh, frozen, etc.). • Students are asked how these food would look if they were unsafe to consume, leading them to realize that sometimes texture and smell can alert people to spoiled food while sometimes there are no visible signs of spoilage. <i>This reinforces the importance of the food supply veterinarian.</i> • Now the students each write a letter based upon their notes. The letter can be an e-mail or handwritten depending upon what the class is studying about letter writing. Show a sample letter to let students know the expected format for their writing. • Students are told they will have the option to mail their letters after first sharing them with a classmate. Students trade letters or the teacher collects the letters and redistributes them so that each student receives an e-mail or letter that is not their own. • Each student writes a reply to the friend asking questions and making comments about the contents of the original letter. Students come to the front of the classroom in pairs with the letter sender reading his/her e-mail or letter to the friend first and then the friend reading her/his reply.
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Ideas to extend this lesson	Invite a food supply veterinarian to talk about his/her work with the class or schedule a field trip to a local butcher to see how meat is packaged, stored, and handled safely until sold.
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