English 1A Fall 2015 Writing Partners Letters

**Overview:** For this project you will send three letters to a student at Anne Darling Elementary School, 4th or 5th grade, and receive three letters from the same student. At the end of the semester, you will meet the student and tour our campus with them.

**Objectives:** Writing Partners is designed to get you to think about how writing affects others and helps to create and maintain relationships. More specifically, it will let you see how much it can affect young students who are just learning to grasp reading and writing skills for themselves.

You will be someone they will really admire—role models who will help them begin to see themselves as “college material” and to imagine what they might study, and what they might become. Some of these children will have little access to this world. Through your letters and the celebration we have planned at the end of the semester, we can give them an insider’s view.

Furthermore, this assignment will give you an unusual opportunity to think about adapting your writing for a particular audience—very young students--adjusting both content and style to that audience’s needs. You will also be able to play with the visual aspects of communication, since children like (and kind of expect) illustrations with their words.

**Content** Write about your lives. Give them details, and tell them stories. Remember to ask your student a lot of questions to help them get started writing to you.

* What you/they are studying and why, hopes/plans for the future
* Details about college life/ their grade school experiences
* Interests, hobbies, favorite things, heroes/icons
* Family, friends, pets
* What you remember about being their age/ what they imagine about being your age

**What to avoid:** Don’t exchange photos, full names/addresses, or emails, at least not yet.

**Format/Length**

* Follow letter format (Dear \_\_\_\_\_ at the top, signature at the bottom, para. breaks, date)
* Use your very *neatest* handwriting
* Embellish your letters with color, drawings, stickers, something beyond just the words.
* Write at least one full page

**Dates: Note: These must come in on time to get credit! Please don’t disappoint your child and complicate my life by not being reliable in this way.**

* **Letter #1** due MW classes Mon, Sept 28th and TTh class Tues, Sept 29th
* **Letter #2** due MW classes Mon, Oct 26th and TTh class Tues, Oct 27th
* **Letter #3** due MW classes Mon, Nov 23rd and TTh class Tues, Nov 24th