

Teacher's Example *Writing in the Works* Homework Ten

Homework Ten

Write a proposal to the U. S. Post Office to commemorate someone or something on a stamp. Practice arguing one aspect of your topic.

*From the desk of Gina Fournier*

U.S Postal Service

October 1, 2009

Dear Postal Service:

Please promote reading in a stamp. Since the family is the front line for all learning, picturing a parent and child together holding a book would be a powerful image.

There is a reading crisis in this country. People don't sit in public and read the newspaper anymore, so traditional newspapers are going out of business. People read online, but mostly in shallow bursts. Students skim Cliff Notes instead of the actual novel. Text messages reduce spelling and depth of thought. The lowest common denominator of reading material sells, but only half of American adults claim to read voluntarily, according to the National Endowment for the Arts.

*Good news!* Teaching good reading habits begins in the home and can be reinforced by a U.S. Postal Service stamp. Reading is inextricably connected to writing. If more people read, more people might start writing and mailing letters again.

There is much talk about the information age and today's intellectual marketplace. If Americans are no longer employed by making things like automobiles, reading is an important practice to maintain. Reading develops minds that can in turn develop alternative energy and spur job creation for people in places like my home state, Michigan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gina Fournier

