

# Letter Writing Template

**Directions:** For each section, roll the dice. Use the item that corresponds to the number rolled. For example, if I roll a six for my Salutation, I would write "Respected Madam" in my letter, indicating I am addressing a woman I respect highly.

## Heading

Start with a Heading that lets your recipient know the date and location you are writing from. Often, this information was written in the top right.

Number Rolled	Heading
1	Goliad, TX, December 6th, 1832
2	Jefferson County, Tennessee, October 31 <sup>st</sup> , 1835
3	The Alamo, Bexar, July 21 <sup>st</sup> , 1826
4	Gonzales, Texas, August 15 <sup>th</sup> , 1834
5	Austin County, November 5 <sup>th</sup> , 1836
6	Big Spring, Texas, February 25 <sup>th</sup> , 1830

## Salutation

It is customary to start with a Salutation. These are written on the line below the Heading on the left-hand side and indicate the relationship between you and the letter's recipient.

Number Rolled	Salutation
1	To my loving Wife,
2	My beloved Grandfather,
3	Dearest Friend,
4	Honored Sir,
5	To the People of Texas and All Americans in the World,
6	Respected Madam,

## Letter Body

Typically, the Letter Body begins with the reason you are writing the letter, for which there are numerous reasons. These can include saying thank you for something, celebrating or congratulating someone, and even just to say hello. To determine what to include in your letter, roll for the Purpose **and** for a piece of 19th-century slang that you need to include somewhere in your letter.

### Part 1: Purpose for Writing

Number Rolled	Purpose
1	Tell your recipient about your perilous journey on the <i>Camino Real</i> from Mexico City to San Antonio.
2	Thank the recipient for the present they gave you on your birthday.
3	Describe how much you miss your recipient and propose a date to visit them.
4	You just moved to a new town. Tell your recipient what you like and dislike about it.
5	You were a stonemason who was fired. Write to your recipient about the project you were working on and why you were fired.
6	You just returned home from a vacation. Tell your recipient where you went and what you did there.

## Part 2: Slang and Sayings

Number Rolled	Slang or Saying
1	<b>Some pumpkins:</b> referring to a person or something that is special "One of them thinks he's got a [horse] that's some pumpkins." <i>A Quarter Race in Kentucky</i> , p. 118
2	<b>Wake snakes</b> – be mischievous, get into trouble, or get up and going "So I went on a regular wake snakes sort of a spree, and I went here and there turnin', twistin' and doublin' about until I didn't know where or who I was," New Orleans, La., <i>Times Picayune</i> of Aug. 15, 1842.
3	<b>Highfaluting</b> – pretentious, fancy "They were going it on the high faluting order. I heerd one slick-cheeked chap... singing as they were playing." <i>Spirit of the Times</i> , 2 Feb. 1839
4	<b>Absquatulate</b> – leave suddenly "Two of the loafers [were] committed to prison; the other has absquatulated." <i>The Times-Picayune</i> , 1837
5	<b>Huckleberry above a persimmon</b> – better than something else; a cut above "It is a huckleberry above my persimmon to cipher out how I find myself the most popular bookmaker of the day." <i>Colonel Crockett in Texas</i> , p.13, 1836
6	<b>Man alive</b> – an exclamation; expression of shock or surprise" Man alive! what do you put yourself in such a plaguy passion for?" Mrs. Kirkland, <i>A New Home</i> , p.168, 1840

## Valediction and Signature

The Valediction is your sign-off and is located on the line beneath the last line of text. Like the Salutation, these also often indicate the relationship between you and your correspondent. For options that say "relationship," you will fill that in based on the Salutation you used. For example, if I am writing to my grandfather and I roll a four, my Valediction will say "Ever your granddaughter." If your Salutation does not indicate a specific relationship, then you can make up one for your Valediction.

Number Rolled	Valediction
1	Yours respectfully,
2	Your loving and affectionate ( <i>relationship</i> ),
3	Faithfully,
4	Ever your ( <i>relationship</i> ),
5	Your obliged friend,
6	Most gratefully,

After your Valediction, sign your full name below it. This can be your actual name or one you create. If you have a rank, like Lieutenant, include that as well.

## Postscript (P.S.)

It was not considered good etiquette to cross out mistakes in writing, and it was not possible to erase them. Because of this, a postscript with additional or forgotten information was added to the end of a signed letter. To add your postscript, start with "P.S." and continue writing on the same line. When done, simply write your first name on the next line. Roll to see what your postscript will include.

Important! A postscript is typically quite short, so be sure yours does not include more than three sentences.

Number Rolled	Purpose
1	Explain that your recent illness is clearing up, and you're feeling much better.
2	Tell your recipient that your goat ran away, but you found him in a most unlikely place.
3	Describe a new article of clothing you just purchased.
4	Tell your recipient you recently sat to get your portrait drawn and how it went.
5	Describe a recent weather event.
6	Give your opinion on a book you just read.