



ANDERSON COLLECTION
AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Adventures With Writing Letters

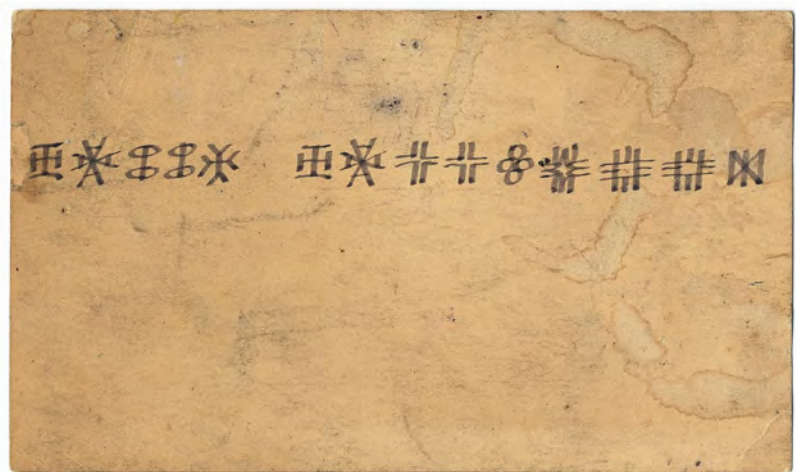
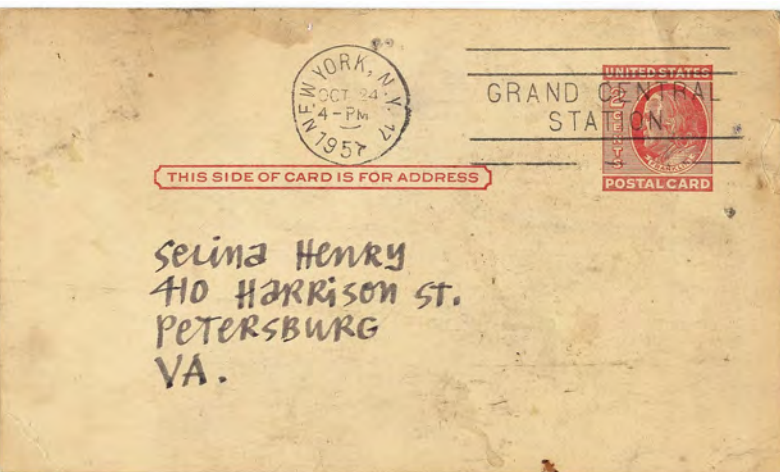
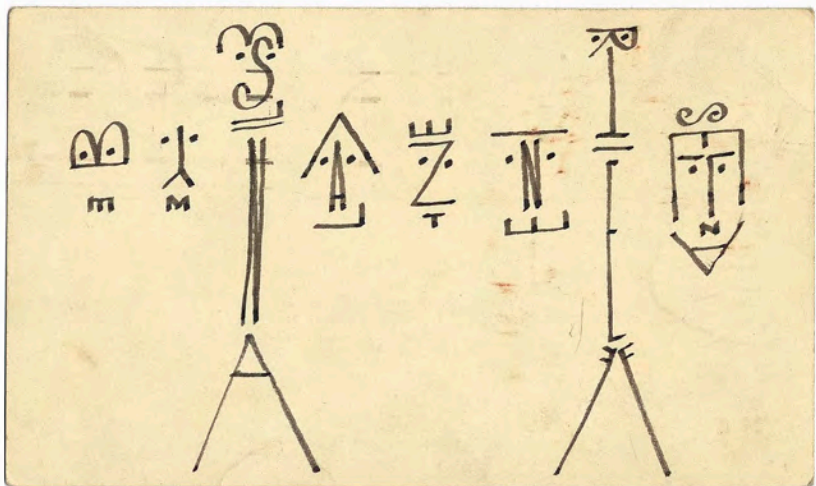
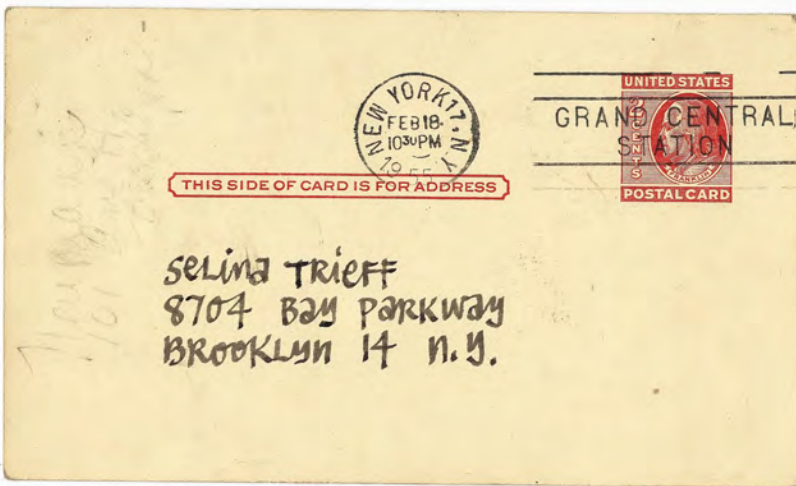
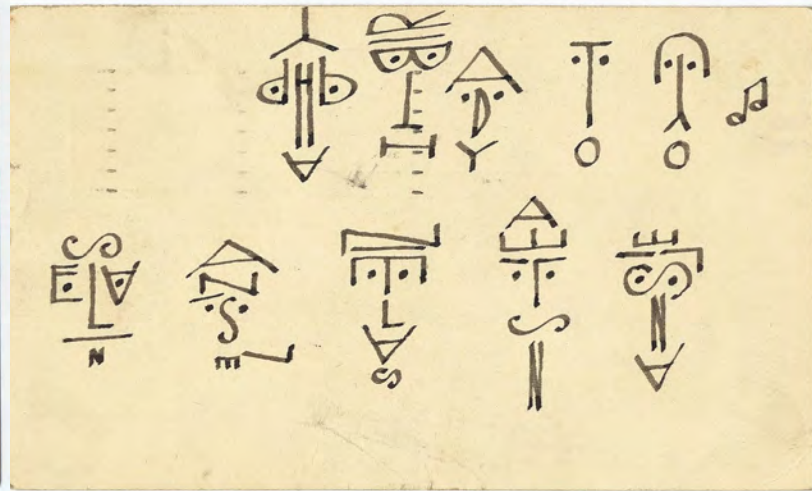
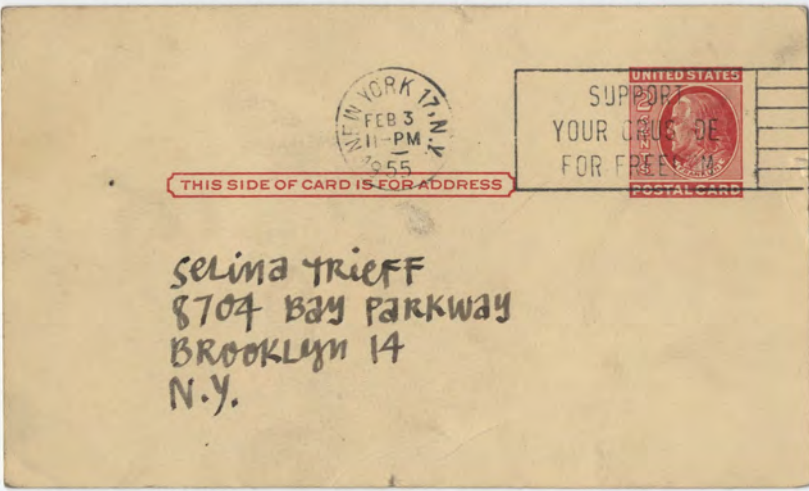
During these times when many are sheltering in place, people may feel lonely and miss their friends and family. In the days before the internet and Zoom calls, people would often times write letters on paper to communicate and feel closer to

each other. The artists in the Anderson Collection were no exception. In many ways this form of communication can be very creative, comforting, and intimate. Letters can express the love, affection, and support people have for each other as seen in the postcards from artist Ad Reinhardt, found on the following pages. Other artistic examples include letters from Philip Guston, David Park, and Wayne Thiebaud. As you will see, the artistic talents and creativity of these artists permeate their letter writing and add even more to the words they write. The examples of these letters are shown on the following pages and can inspire your own letter writing. You'll also find information on how to create your own letter. Write, draw, and have fun!

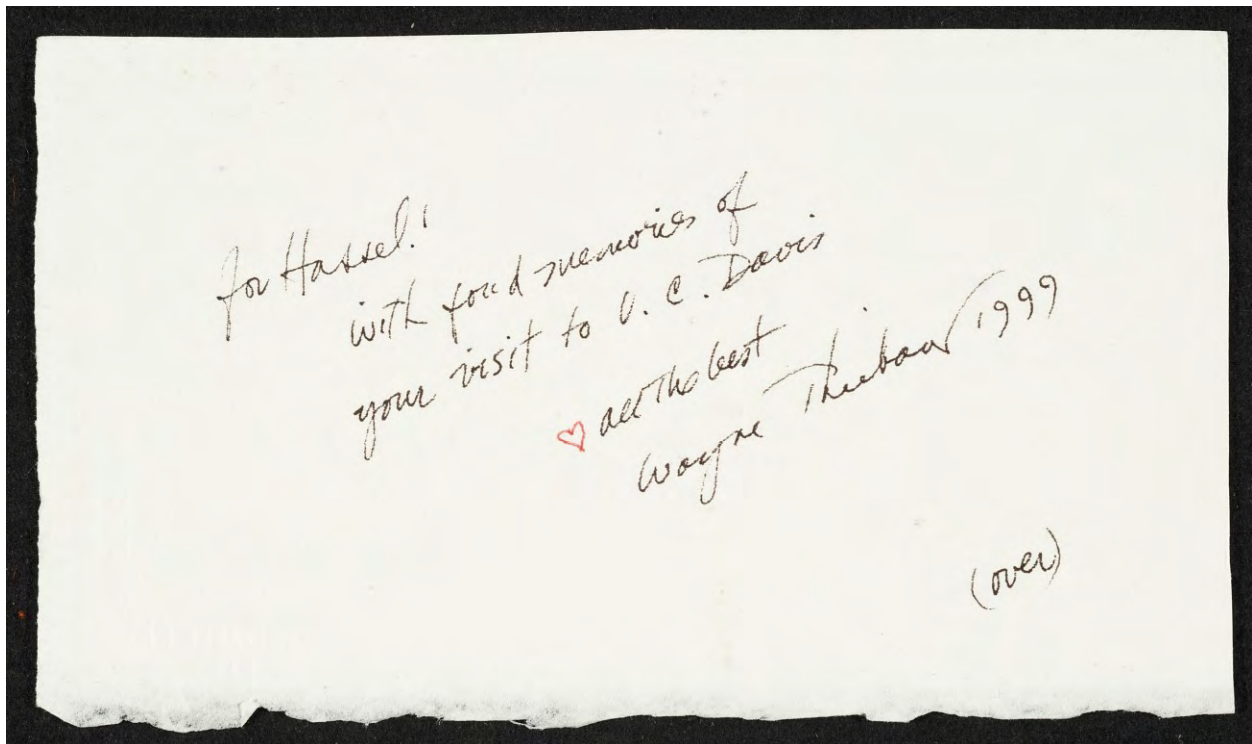
**Share your letters with us! Tag us with
[@anderson.collection.stanford](#) [@cantorarts](#)**

Ad Reinhardt

Can you decipher these postcards?



Wayne Thiebaud



What jokes do you know that you would like to share in a letter?

Richard Diebenkorn

Dear Hank,

11/8/75

Both times were delicious and we had fun. When we went to dinner the place was very crowded and we had to wait. I think that's a complaint that restaurateurs must like to hear. The service was good and we even had a long chat with one of the hostesses who had been our dentist's assistant.

Yours and Moo's studio visit was easy and I felt that you were looking intently and seriously. What more does an artist want of the viewing of his work?

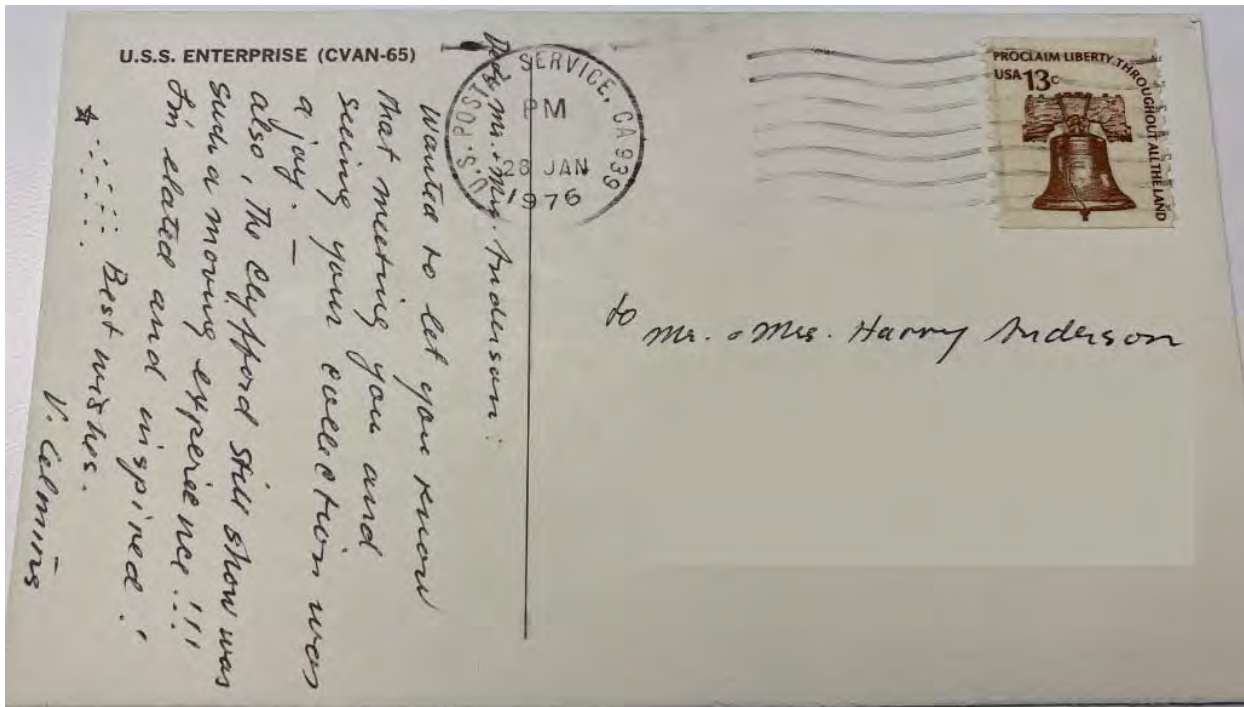
Hope to see you both again soon. Phyllis sends her best.

My best wishes,

Dick

Was there an experience you would like to share? What art do you pensively look at?

Vija Celmins



Vija likes to end her letters with a shooting star!

Philip Guston

Wed. - Woodstock

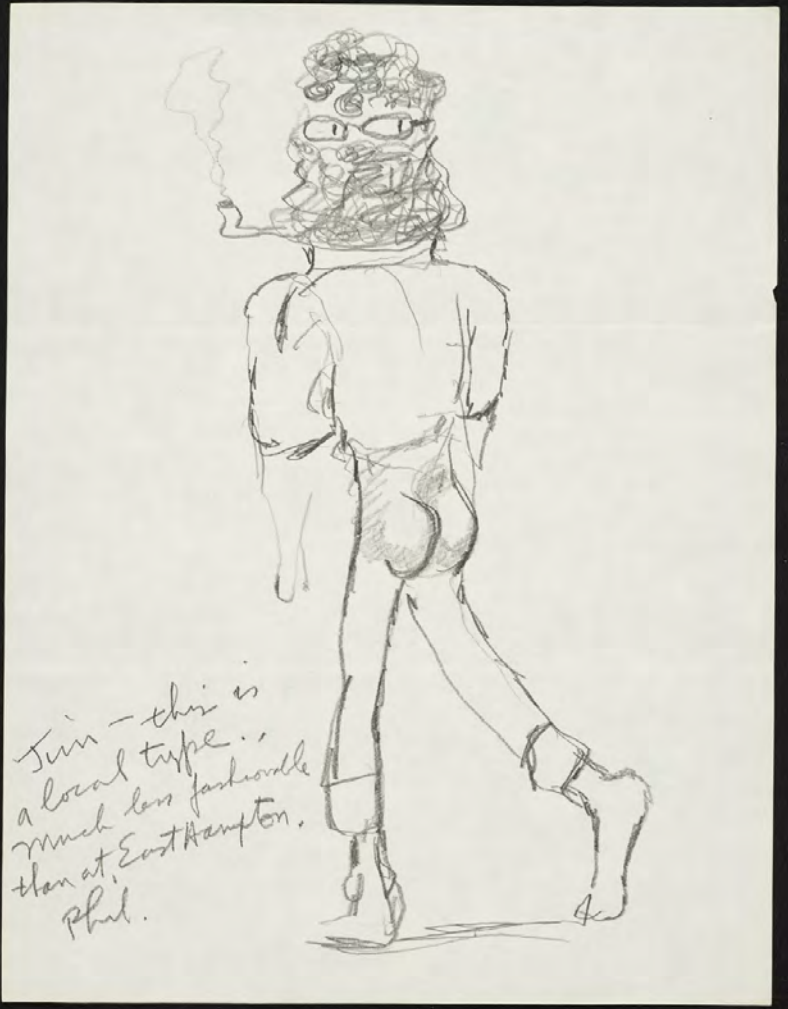
Dear Charlotte & Jim,

I've never enjoyed both of you more than last weekend. It was the most wonderful visit - extended far longer than I had hoped for, but then I felt so relaxed and you are so gracious and real.

I am up here alone, getting started etc, and will come in for Muna this coming week.

The witch-worm plague seems to be over. Where are they, gorged with all those leaves? It is typical Woodstock weather - overcast and mountain gloom. Too much of the part around me.

Much love, ever, Phil



If you filled up the front of your page, remember you can still use the back!

1609 L-Vanda Rd
Berkeley 7, Calif.
Sunday - Sept 20

Dear George -

The catalogue arrived Thursday and I have begun to regain my composure. I don't suppose that any painter - Picasso included - could ask for a finer job. I do earnestly hope that you're not crazy and that I will appear to be worth it. It is immediately impressive without being flashy or gimmicky - it is so generous with cuts and such good quality

cuts. I'll admit that I don't feel entirely satisfied by the subject of the whole thing and that a not too comfortable self-consciousness makes me write this haltingly, but I do want you to know that I think your work on it is generous and faultless. I'm an awfully lucky bastard.

My friend Bud Brann, I think I referred to him several times - The English poet, Johnson enthusiast - was here Thursday

evening. He's the kind of guy that doesn't hesitate to express his disapproval. Well, he went through that catalogue page by page with especial concentration on those hand-written pages and finally said "I'm so relieved. This really isn't bad."

Damn it. I didn't see an Art News until one full week after your telegram. They send them out by covered wagon. I haven't yet seen ARS. Again I don't know what to say except

that I guess we both are lucky bastards.

I worked viciously for the Ford business. That lady, uninterested canvas that had a white female or brown male get itself tortured into every conceivable variation. It has ended up revealing a model - female - on the left and an eagle with a painting - rather influenced by Park - on the right. I think - I thought - I hope it's good. I submitted it - the boy with a plate and a group of

David Park

heads. - If passed by local jury they stand a chance of being shipped to New York + I labelled them to be forwarded to you in that event.

I suppose there's important dope I'm forgetting to tell you but it seems likely that I'll be seeing you soon.

Don't relax!

David



In this letter David writes his worries about the quality of his paintings and compares himself to Picasso with "The Catalogue arrived Thursday and I have begun to regain my composure. I don't suppose that any painter - Picasso included - could ask for a finer job. I do earnestly hope that you're not crazy and that I will appear to be worth it." This gives us an interesting look into his psychology and how, like many other people, he compared himself to another. It is important to learn from skilled people but remember to try what you like and don't compare your chapter 1 to someone else's chapter 8.

Writing The Envelope

Write the return address (your home address) in the top left corner here. Start with your name on the first line, then the street address and then the city address.



Write the address you are sending to here, just like the way you wrote your address in the corner.

Don't forget to put a stamp in the top right corner here, like I did.

Writing The Letter

Start the letter with the name of the person you are writing to with “Dear” or “To” at the front and a comma after the name.

Dear Perence,

Happy Birthday to you! Thank you for all the wonderful times together. I hope you get the best out of life and get to travel as much as you can as soon as you can. I miss you and I hope to have more adventures with you soon.

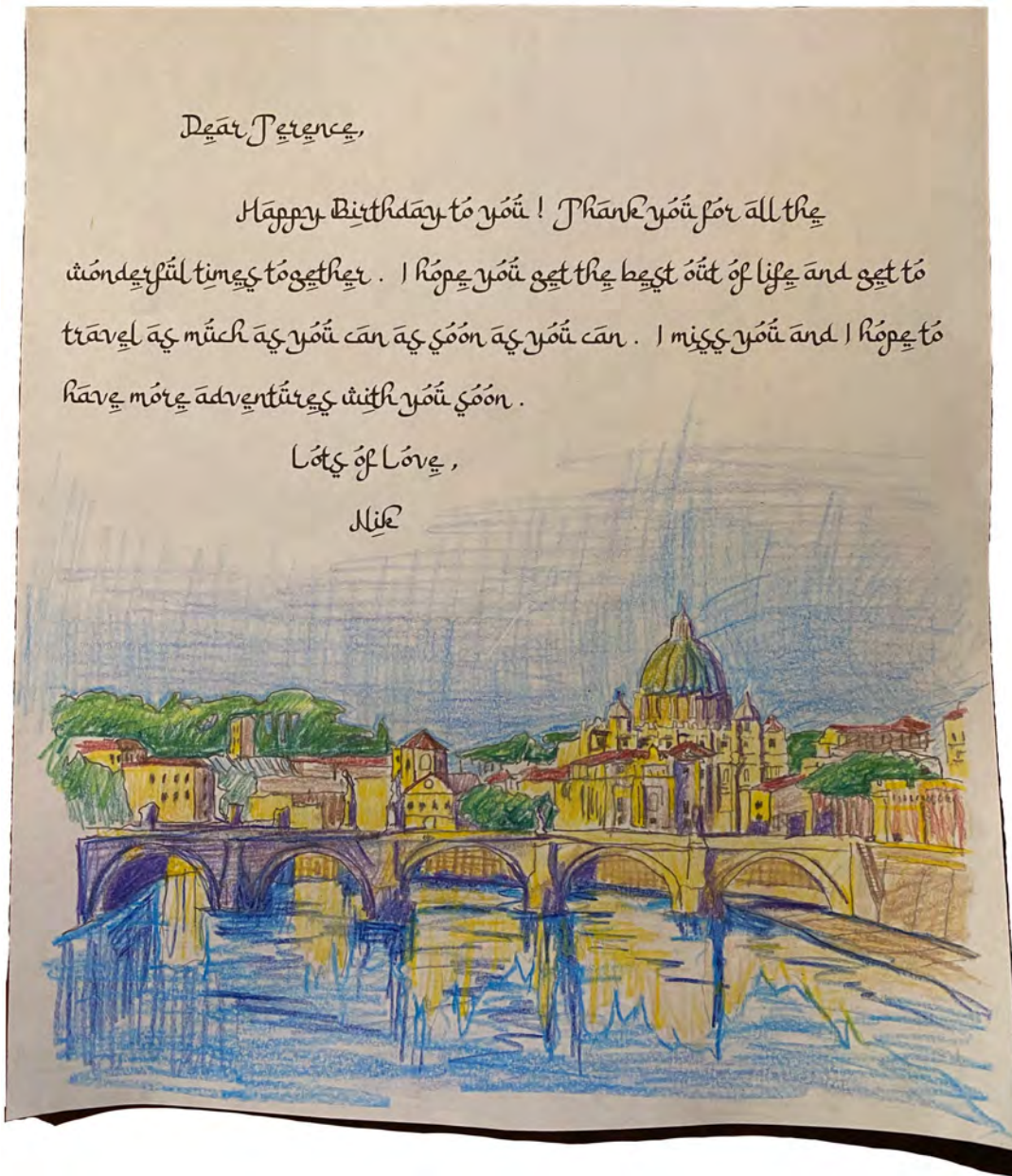
Lots of Love,

Nik

Write about your hopes, dreams, aspirations, loves, regrets, temptations and whatever you would like to share.

End the letter with a sign off. In this case it is “Lots of love”, but it could be “Sincerely” or “Cheers”, and then your name.

Add a picture using pencil, markers, paint, or collage. Have fun!



Creative Ideas to Add to Your Letter

- **CALLIGRAPHY** - is the style of the letters you write such as cursive or gothic lettering.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sBoVGqiSzr4>
- **3D LETTERING** - you can use One Point Perspective to produce 3D looking lettering.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pn4U3p3dK_0
- **SKETCHES/DRAWINGS** - you can draw or sketch anything such as people, places, animals, and plants from both real life and your imagination.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtkvB1Mlx3U>
- **COLOR** - use color to embellish your art with crayons, pens, pencils, and paint.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34V7VFOX7ow>
- **WRITE IN CODE** - develop your own code to share between you and your bestie.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1M4AReJV3ys>
- **POEMS** - write a poem whether it is a haiku, sonnet, or limerick.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0BUYzMypj8>
- **FONTS** - if some people have a hard time reading your handwriting you can still style your letter with fonts on the computer.
<https://fonts.google.com/>
- **COLLAGE** - cutout pieces of paper from magazines to make your own image to share.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLooH5Y_Rk8
- **POP-UP LETTER** - you can make three dimensional popups with paper.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_Epnz96g10
- **JOKES** - everyone loves a good joke.

**Share your letters with us! Tag us with
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