

Lesson 34



Area: Give Constructive Criticism

Title: **Constructive Letters I**

Objective: Students will practice communicating their opinions in positive ways.

Materials: Writing utensil
Paper
Board or overhead

- Activity:**
1. Review the concept of constructive criticism.
Our definition: Constructive criticism is a valid criticism based on a weakness or need for improvement in some way. This criticism is constructive *only* when it is accompanied by suggestions or ideas that will lead to the desired improvement.
 2. Introduce the idea: students will be writing letters to school staff, school district staff, or local businesses to share constructive criticism.
 3. Letters may be sent by individuals, small groups, or the class as a whole.
 3. Have students brainstorm issues they might send letters about. Make sure that they can offer constructive criticism, not just criticism. Prompt them to think of a time/place in school or the community that they would like to see service or opportunities improved. *Examples:* Chester Bowl might expand its hours of operation, the school board might offer more foreign language classes, a local restaurant might expand its menu to interest teens, etc.
 4. Draft the letters. Use the attached checklist to help students include appropriate comments, etc.

Closure: Ask students to continue thinking about and working on their letters. Rough drafts are due for the next lesson.



Constructive Letters - Checklist

Does your letter:

- Identify a specific and genuine concern?
- Does it state the concern in a way that is not an attack, an accusation, or blaming way?
- Explain how the thing you want changed will affect you as a consumer, or user of the services provided by this place?
(Example: starting movies at the theater later in the afternoons makes it difficult to attend for those with sports or other afternoon activities to attend.)
- Explain how the change you are requesting will impact consumers in a positive way?
- Thank the organization or individual for their consideration, etc.

You should be able to say “Yes” to all of these statements. If you cannot, revise your letter to include these criteria.