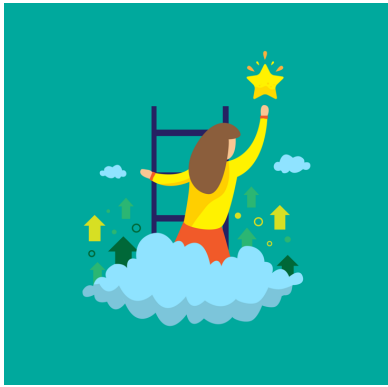


## INTRODUCTIONS

Prompt: Write to your pen pal about who you are and where you come from. Be sure to ask your pen pal questions about his/her life that you are curious about, and answer any questions he/she asked in the last letter.

Possible Guiding Questions:

- 1) What is your family like?
  - a. How many family members do you have? (pets are family, too!)
  - b. What's a typical day at home like?
  - c. What is your cultural heritage?
  - d. Does your family have any traditions or rituals?
  
- 2) What is life in your hometown like?
  - a. What is your favorite thing about your hometown? Your least favorite?
  
- 3) What do you like to do with your friends?
  
- 4) What are your hobbies and interests?
  
- 5) What is something that most people don't know about you?

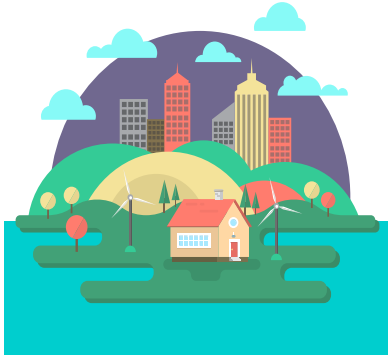


## YOUR VALUES

Prompt: Write to your pen pal about your thoughts on one of the questions below. Ask your pen pal about his/her views on the subject, too, and be sure to respond to any questions he/she asked in the last letter.

Possible Guiding Questions:

- 1) How would you describe yourself and your values?
  - a. What sense of purpose / mission / duty guides you in your life?
  - b. What would your best friend say about who you are and what inspires you?
  - c. What are you most proud of in your life?
  
- 2) Think of someone you look up to, either a famous person or someone you know. Who is it and what is it about them that you admire?
  - a. What makes a person admirable?
  - b. Whom do the people in your life tend to admire most?
  
- 3) If we lived in a perfect world, how would people behave differently than they do now?
  
- 4) What do you think it means to be “successful” in life?
  - a. What kind of success are you hoping to have in your life?
  - b. How does today’s popular culture (movies, television, music) seem to define “success”? Do you agree with these depictions?



## SOCIETY TODAY

Prompt: Write to your pen pal about your thoughts on one of the questions below. Ask your pen pal about his/her views on the subject, too, and respond to any questions he/she asked you in the last letter.

Possible Guiding Questions:

- 1) Is technology making us feel more alone or more connected?
  - a. Has technology changed the way family and friends interact with each other? How?
  - b. Do you like to use social media? Why or why not?
  - c. Do you think people can be “addicted” to technology?
  
- 2) What does “fairness” mean in society?
  - a. What does a “fair” community – whether a school, town, or country, look like to you?
  
- 3) What does it mean to “belong” to a group?
  - a. Which groups have you joined by choice and to what groups have you been assigned by other people or by society?
  - b. Which groups are most important to you and how do you feel about belonging to these groups?
  - c. What do you gain from your groups? How does your group influence your identity or sense of belonging?
  - d. Are there groups you avoid or do not think highly of? And are there groups you would never join? Why?
  
- 4) What are the greatest challenges American society faces today? Where do you see evidence of these challenges in your life?



## YOUTH TODAY

Prompt: Write to your pen pal about your thoughts on one of the questions below. Ask your pen pal about his/her views on the subject, too, and respond to any questions he/she asked you in the last letter.

Possible Guiding Questions:

- 1) Are kids today more or less “stressed out” than past generations?
  - a. What causes stress in your life?
  - b. How do you deal with stress?
  
- 2) A dilemma is a situation in which it is difficult to decide what is the right thing to do. What is a dilemma (or more than one) faced by young people today?
  
- 3) What can adults learn from today’s youth?
  - a. What do you think adults don’t fully understand about today’s youth?
  
- 4) What are the three most important values you think should be encouraged in youth today? Why?