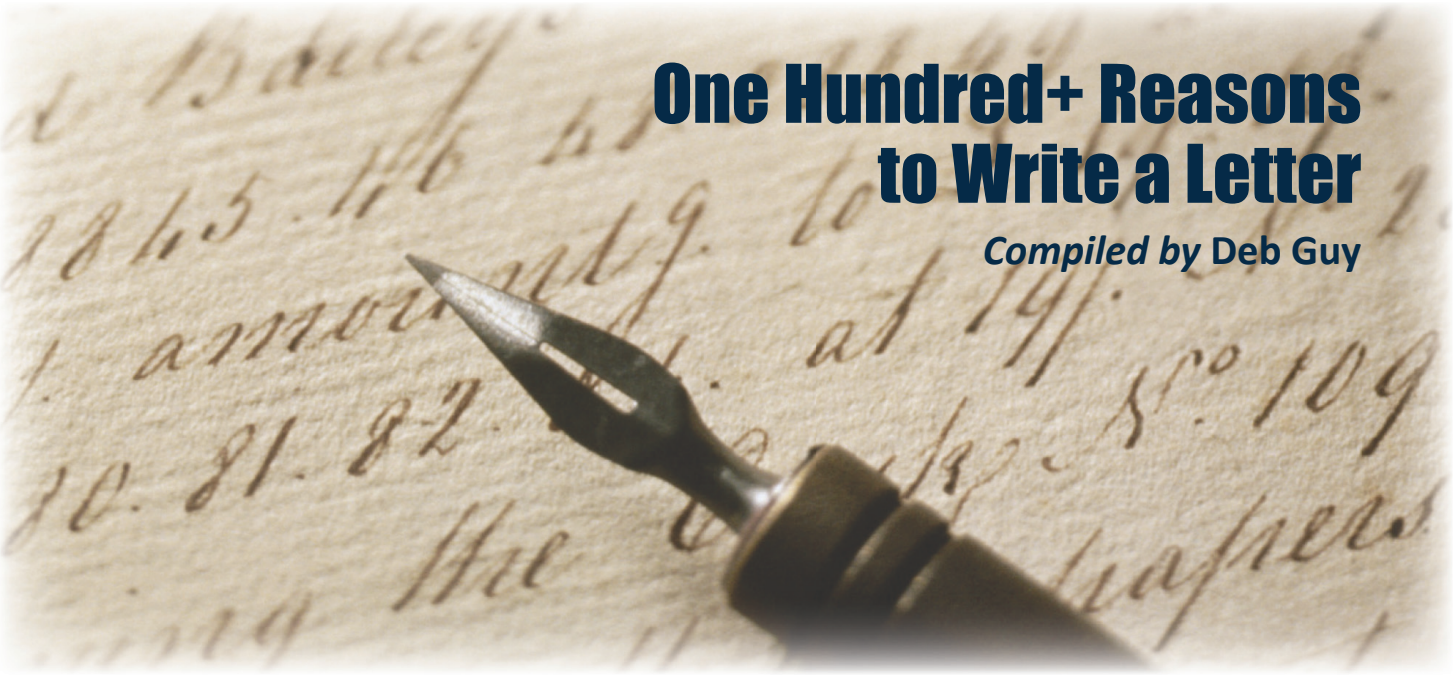


# WOMEN'S EXCHANGE

*learn, grow, share*

## One Hundred+ Reasons to Write a Letter

*Compiled by Deb Guy*

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1. A beautiful letter is a treasure.
  2. Good letter-writers are correspondents, not unlike journalists.
  3. Even business is better done when expressed eloquently in writing.
  4. Letters keep us informed, long after the time.
  5. Letters give us a sense of lasting connection.
  6. Because of the pleasure of sharing ourselves is no less important now than it ever was.
  7. Unlike most telephone conversations, a letter gives us time to reflect and compose our thoughts without interruption or distractions. In letters we can watch each other's life unfold, moment by moment.
  8. It is compelling to think of a human hand penning a note!
  9. The beauty of being written to...is the sense of important it gives us.
  10. It is immensely pleasing and flattering to be singled out and acknowledged as someone worth of a letter.
  11. Letters exchange with friends, however, create a private world of shared values, grievances, passions, and hopes; they sustained us during the most tumultuous years of our physical growth and encourage the development of a rich inner life.
  12. There is something forgiving about a letter: budding writers know that it's a safe place to stretch.
  13. Satisfying outlet for self-expression.
  14. These days, it's a little alarming to discover just how much our letters to our own children sound like the ones our parents wrote to us.
  15. Because...Some of the best letters are exchange between adult children and their parents.

continued ...

16. We are always bargaining with our feelings so that we can live from day to day.
17. To feel better understood...I write letters to myself.
18. Writing a letter, even if it is short, makes me feel as if I have a life.
19. Letters really are the windows of the soul. The meatiest are ones full of self-discovery.
20. It is very gratifying to be let into someone else's life, to be entrusted with the soft, small moments as well as the more imposing ones.
21. A written life has extra intensity.
22. Because a letter does not have to conform to any set of rules.
23. A letter, at the very least, gives us the freedom to express our opinions honestly.
24. Because it is true...letter writing requires a little effort.
25. It is an indispensable act of friendship.
26. It is an extremely vigorous way of saying, "I am thinking of you."
27. Writing deepens and broadens that sentiment; it exercises your mind and imagination, and give you an excuse to be as playful, earnest, loving and moody as you like.
28. More than the telephone or any other timesaving form of communications, letter writing maintains friendships uninterrupted over the course of a lifetime. It gives us the comforting sense that our lives are shared. A letter shows one has not been forgotten.
29. A letter is never strident or insistent as a telephone; it has lovely manners and quietly waits on the mantel or kitchen table until the moment is right for you to hear its message.
30. Some things are just harder to say over the phone!
31. A letter considers the person to whom we are writing. It gives him or her time to digest what you have said without interruption or embarrassment.
32. Letter writing reduces the amount of noise, speed, and clutter in everyday life.
33. Letter writing immerses us in quiet, calming mood that allows us to enjoy all the pleasures of solitude while feeling connected to other people.
34. Letter writing is a particularly soothing and approachable form of human connection, especially today when everyone is looking for the latest "fast way to do something."
35. Writing has a meditative effect.
36. It is easier to discover what you really think, feel, and wish to communicate if you allow yourself to slow down, take a deep breath, and dip into your own quiet center.
37. You can write a letter anywhere. Some of the most memorable letters are written at home.
38. Letter writing can be done any way you like, and anywhere you like.
39. Letter writing is a completely individual effort.
40. A letter has a feel.
41. Letters support our lives in all kinds of ways.
42. Letters make others feel good...feel happy.
43. Letters are a gift of your time and affection, which makes them very rare and special...they give much back to the writer.
44. Letter writing is not a lost art...it is making a comeback.
45. Electronic mail has its advantages, but there is something disturbingly ephemeral about it.
46. To not lose intimacy as it is the price we pay, ultimately, for the convenience of speed.
47. Letters are articles of faith and acts of grace; they show that we have made ourselves vulnerable to share perhaps the deepest part of ourselves with someone else.

48. Remember...typing a letter can sometimes be confused with a letter of business.
49. Allows you to indulge in perfectly wonderful writing paper, pens, inks, waxes.
50. Allow you if you like, to make an envelope, using paper, tubes, bottles, or boxes.
51. To connect with family and friends the way feels right to you.
52. Letters have the power to enchant.
53. The time and care lavished on each word and paragraph is a deeply touching act of friendship, especially today when we seem to have so little time and so many absorbing cares.
54. Write letters to document, show concern, celebrate, and share the important passages of our lives.
55. Let your passion for writing letters be fueled by the knowledge that no one must write letters anymore.
56. A letter is a vow of friendship.
57. The act of writing itself very often has the effect of slowing down the harried pace of life.
58. The telephone is a convenience: It has an immediate use, while letters are timeless repositories of more carefully considered thoughts.
59. Still, good phone calls and good letters share a common ingredient: good conversation. The only difference might be...one can last forever.
60. To be natural, the more it is natural the more it is enjoyed. Write as you speak.
61. To smack a little of the cast...like good wine.
62. To leave an imprint of who we are. It is just as important as it is to speak in our own voice.
63. Letters give us the feeling of being in a friend's presence, sharing their company.
64. To write, to get our words out. Finding the right mood or opening line will uncork the flow of our thoughts.
65. Letters are a natural expression of our need to tell the story of our lives.
66. To enjoy yourself, as it comes through in your writing.
67. To say it all. Letters can be only a couple of sentences.
68. To help you overcome your fear of writing...Don't let your fear of writing keep you from staying in touch.
69. To enjoy the menu, the photograph, the map, the drawing...write on it and send.
70. To purchase and keep all the paper, pens, envelopes, and stamps on hand that you love.
71. To share a good joke, a thought, a dream, a memory.
72. To write because you don't have to.
73. To send a Valentine in August.
74. To say I am sorry.
75. To say hello, how are you?
76. To ask the un-askable.
77. To keep a conversation from fading.
78. To remember someone, you love.
79. To honor someone. To tell them why they were chosen.
80. To give drama that email can never provide.
81. To touch and hold the people we love the most.
82. To set the heart free.
83. To be as extravagant, elegant, witty, poetic, passionate, saucy, silly or simple as you like.
84. To keep our social lives running smoothly.

85. To show our gratitude.
86. To say good-bye forever.
87. To widen your circle of friends.
88. To invite someone into our life.
89. To acknowledge every gift, every act of kindness and express our hospitality.
90. To someone how they have sent the ideal thought, prayer, or gift.
91. To honor a memory.
92. To share the joy of a happy occasion.
93. To fortify family connection.
94. To congratulate.
95. To surprise.
96. To embrace the qualities of life that will be forgotten, no matter how hard we try without words and ink.
97. To show understanding.
98. To remember the youth of our lives. For others to know it.
99. To show sympathy and support.
100. To relieve sorry, anger, suffering or a sense of defeat.
101. To demonstrate admiration.
102. To complain.
103. To enter the lives of another person.
104. To bring humor into another person's life.