

# “Dear America ...”

## Letter #1



### Setting

It is **1815**.

It's been 12 years since the **Louisiana Purchase**... eight years since **Lewis & Clark** returned from the West... four years since the **Shawnee War**... and three years since the **War of 1812**.

You are **15**-years-old. You have moved from your hometown, across the Appalachian Mountains, and are somewhere in the Ohio River Valley... or even further west.

### Style, Technique & Content

#### Writing Techniques

- Your letter must use effective narrative writing techniques, including first person perspective, and past tense setting.

#### Narrative Topics

- Letter must contain narrative topics which are consistent with the an 1815 setting. Consult **Unit 2** (*New Frontiers*) for content ideas.

#### Supporting Details

- Your letter must contain supporting details which are specific to the topics you've chosen. For example, "We crossed the Ohio River", instead of, "We crossed a river." Or, "We traded with a group of Cherokee Indians", instead of, "We traded with some Indians."

# Technical Requirements

## Letter Outline

- Before starting your letter you must submit, and get approved a Letter Outline. Until your Outline is approved by me, you are not cleared to start writing.

## Final Letter

- typed in GoogleDocs
- 12/14 point font
- 200** words minimum; roughly one page
- convert your final draft into a "scripty" looking font: *Something ... like ... this.*
- Adjust the font size so the letter is easily readable. (Only your working draft has to be 12/14 point font. It's OK if the final draft is larger. The important thing is that it's easy to read.)
- print **TWO** paper copies of your final draft

## Due Date

Everything on the above checklist is due on: \_\_\_\_\_

## Warning !!!

There are 130 students at Bell Middle School waiting for our letters, and I will not make them wait any longer than is reasonable while you drag your feet day after day after day, piecing away at your letter. So, if you do not have your final letter ready on the day it is due, you will be coming in for lunch every day until you get it done.