

Write Home About It!

OBJECTIVES

To send good news about participants home to families and care-givers

MATERIALS:

- Jumbo index cards
- Five stamps per participant
- Five pre-printed labels per participant with your return address and phone number
- Collage materials
- Markers
- Paint
- Newspapers
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Stamps and stickers
- Any other fun art supplies

SETUP

Ask each participant to bring in the name and address of one person they would like to send good gossip letters to: could be a parent, uncle, aunt, sibling, etc.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Explain** to youth that they will be creating postcards that will be mailed to their homes a few times per year, to share good news about them with their families and caregivers.
2. **Ask** participants: What do you think your families and caregivers would like to hear about you?
3. **Distribute** five jumbo index cards to each participant.
4. Explain that they will **create** a unique piece of art on one side of each index card, and leave room on the backside for you to write your notes about them.
5. **Create three stations** around the room for participants to create a different piece of art for each of their cards:
 - STATION 1: **Collage materials with the prompt: What are your goals for this year?**
 - STATION 2: **Watercolors with the prompt: What makes you happiest?**
 - STATION 3: **Construction paper and glue sticks for ripped paper mosaics, with the prompt: What do you see when you dream your biggest dreams?**
6. **Divide** youth into three groups and have them rotate to each of the stations, decorating one card at each one.
7. **Demonstrate** to participants how to properly address a letter.
8. **Give** each participant scrap paper and five labels.
9. Have each participant **practice** writing the name and address of their postcard recipients on their scrap paper, then copy the information five times on the labels.
10. Have participants **place** one label in the middle of the artwork on each postcard with the recipient address.
11. Have participants **place** your return address and a stamp on the artwork side of each of their post cards.
12. Have each participant **place** their postcards in an envelope with their name on it, so you know which card belongs to each participant.
13. Periodically over the course of the year, **fill out** your participants' postcards and send them home.



Write Home About It! continued

DEBRIEF

- **What is most exciting about getting “good gossip” about you in the mail?**
- **What will you do each day to ensure there are lots of good things to write home about?**
- **If you were writing a letter to your parent/caregiver about something great about yourself, what would it say?**

DIAL IT DOWN

- Limit the art stations to materials that are easiest for your participants to work with.
- Provide stencils and stickers to ensure their artwork is clean and appealing.
- Help participants stick the labels and stamps on their envelopes.
- Create a worksheet for participants to have someone at home write out the correct name and address of the recipient.