**The Last Word**

**Learning Target: I can use Brighten Academy’s Norms and my middle school experiences to write a letter to persuade the Passages committee I am ready for high school.**

Assignment Description:

As you prepare to leave Brighten and head to high school take this opportunity to have the last word. The purpose of this assignment is to write a persuasive, letter to convince your family, teachers and crew that you are academically and socially ready for high school. You will share a plan that will persuade your audience that you are ready to leave Brighten Academy and will be successful in high school. You will use Brighten Academy’s norms, taking care of yourself, taking care of others and taking care of this place (your high school) to demonstrate your high school readiness. Please use the outline below to construct your letter. There is a model letter below the outline. Please note you will be presenting this letter during crew as your 8th grade Passages. If you do not want to read/present your letter live during crew, you can make a video of reading the letter to present. This is a graded assignment and will assist in bringing up your writing grade.

DUE DATE: Wednesday May 5th, 2020

Type this letter in word online ad share with me.

Make sure you title your letter

Outline:

1. Introduction:
   1. Introduce yourself and include what high school you are attending (also include magnet program).
   2. Purpose of your letter: to persuade your audience you are ready for high school
   3. Thesis statement (Please feel free to use this one: I a ready for high school because I can take care of myself, others and my high school.)
2. First Body Paragraph: Taking Care of Myself
   1. Explain what it means to take care of yourself.
   2. Personal experience in middle school where this was learned.
   3. Describe your plan to take care of yourself.
3. Second Body Paragraph: Taking Care of Others
   1. Explain what it means to take care of others in high school.
   2. Personal experience in middle school where this was learned.
   3. Describe your plan to take care of others in your high school next year.
4. Third Body Paragraph: Taking Care of this Place
   1. Explain what it means to take care of your high school.
   2. Personal experience in middle school where this was learned.
   3. Describe your plan to take care of your high school.
5. Conclusion:
   1. Restate your thesis statement
   2. Summarize your plan to make high school an academically and socially successful experience.
   3. The Last Word.

Model letter:

Hello,

My name is Corona Virus and I am a rising 9th grader at Digital Learning High School. I want to assure everyone that I am truly ready to take on this exciting challenge. I have spent my middle school years learning what it means to be successful in school and I will apply all that I have learned to make sure I have the best high school experience. I am ready for high school because I can take care of myself, others, and my high school.

I learned in middle school that taking care of myself means putting forth my best effort in all my classes and being a member of the Lacrosse team. In order to keep my grades up and participate in Lacrosse, I must stay organized. Specifically, I need an agenda to stay organized. I started 8th grade without an agenda and had a hard time staying organized and keeping up with Lacrosse and homework. It is imperative that I keep track of my assignments, tests, projects, practices and games. I will an agenda create homework and study schedules to make sure I have planned for enough time to complete my work, keep up with due dates and still be present for Lacrosse practices and games. This tool will ensure that I stay organized and am able to take care of myself academically and socially.

Middle school has taught me that a large part of taking care of others is communication. In crew we learned about Accountable Talk. Specifically, why it is important and how to use it to communicate effectively. I will use Accountable Talk to make sure I am respectful when I communicate with my peers, teachers, and coaches. This strategy will ensure that my peers, teachers and coaches know that I value what they have to say, how they feel, and they are an important part of our school community.

Digital Learning High School is a large community where students and staff share resources to in order to provide the best quality education for students. I know how difficult it is to complete assignments when our resources are damaged or missing. I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that I do not damage, lose or horde any of our resources. I will treat them better than if they were my own to ensure that they continue to be available for everyone.

In order to be successful in high school I know that I must take care of myself, others, and my high school community. I have developed a plan of action that will produce a successful academic and social high school experience. My plan focuses on organization, effective communication, cooperation, and responsibility. I believe this plan is an excellent foundation to set me up for success in high school. I know that I still have a lot to learn and that it will not be easy, but I know that I am ready for this journey!

Sincerely,

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