

Year 9/10 - Session 04 - Letters 1 Script

Background

It is incredibly empowering for students to tell their story and give them a vehicle to have that story heard.

In the movie Freedom Writers, the students study the Holocaust and then focus in on one of the narratives; the Diary of Anne Frank. After becoming inspired by the story of Miep Gies, the woman who housed Anne Frank, the students want to let her know how inspiring her life has been to them. As a project each student drafts their diary entries into a letter. All the letters are bundled together and sent to Miep. So moved was Miep upon receiving them that she agreed to the request to go and speak to the students at Long Beach.

Following this same methodology AIME has also been inspired by the concept and built two sessions into both the Year 9 & 10 Programs where students have a chance to go through this journey too.

Outcomes

- Mentees develop empathy
- Mentees learn about the actions people demonstrate to become role models
- Mentees learn that words can move people to actions
- Mentees develop an understanding that you can be strong and resilient in the face of adversity.

Child Protection Concerns

In the past, students have shared issues that relate to child protection in their letters. AIME staff should read all the letters at the end of the session before sending them on to the guest. If there are any child protection issues in the letter, AIME staff should follow the AIME child protection guidelines.

Selecting Role Models

The Role models that the mentees will write about, should be successful Indigenous people who the Mentees can connect with. It is a good idea to have a male and a female role model, and a variety of occupations. E.g Musician and Sportsperson.

The Program Team are responsible for inviting these guests to the End of Year Session. To ensure success, Program team should be communicating with guests BEFORE the Letters session to address the viability of the guests attending the End of Year Celebration. That way, we know that the Mentees are not writing letters in vain.

Call to Action: Students write to the guests, asking them to attend the End of Year AIME Celebrations. Make sure you write the date and time of the End of Year Celebrations on the board, so that Mentees can include it in their letter.

Guest Session Guide: [/wiki/spaces/Program/pages/26346156](https://wiki/spaces/Program/pages/26346156)

Presenter Training

For this session to work really well, it's important that the Mentees understand the context and where the activities they are doing came from. Listed below are some concepts that the Presenter should understand and links to further information about those areas.

[Freedom Writers](#)

[The Holocaust](#)

[Miep Gies](#)

[Anne Frank](#)

Video Resources Required

Video	Where
Letters Video 1: Jeremy Marou	Click here to download
Letters Video 2: Brenden Newton	Click here to download

Other Resources Required

Resource	Where
Year 9 & 10 Workbooks	On site
2 X AIME Herald Articles A feature article (700-1000 words) on each role model exploring their lives, their struggles, their successes, who they are, what were they doing age 14-15. – Program Managers/Coordinators/Centre Managers will write these articles once they have confirmed the guests.	Orange template Purple template

Resource	Where
	Click here to read previous articles
AIME Letterhead(Mentees will do their first draft in the workbook however you might want to have spare paper available for Mentees who finish early)	Click here to download.
Music	2014 AIME sessions www.grooveshark.com Username: AIME2010 Password: mentoring

Venue Requirements

Tutorial Room or Lecture Space will work for this session.

Session Script

Activity	Action	Timing
Presenter Introduction	<p>"Today we enter a special session where you get the chance to create an action through the stroke of a pen. Where you get to affect someone's life in a positive way through your words.</p> <p>You might have seen the movie Freedom Writers, it's based on a true story and it's about a group of disadvantaged students who use words to make positive changes in their lives and in their community. In the movie the students study the Holocaust (make sure everyone knows that the holocaust is' and they study the Diary of Anne Frank. Anne Frank was a young Jewish Girl who was growing up in Germany during the Holocaust. Due to the terror of the Nazi regime, Anne and her family fled from Germany to Amsterdam in the Netherlands. In 1940, the Nazis invaded Amsterdam, and rather than fleeing, Anne and her family hid in the attic of their fathers office building.During their time in hiding, Anne Frank kept a diary.</p> <p>Anne and her family were helped by a band of non-jewish dutch people, people who risked their lives to try and save Anne and her family. One of those was Miep Gies. The Freedom Writers, wrote to Miep to let her know how inspiring they think she is and to thank them for giving them perspective on their own lives and struggles. After receiving their letters, Miep came to their high school and spoke to the kids. Through this experience the kids learned that even when life's against you, you still can be the bigger, better person. You don't have to be a victim, you can be strong and a hero.</p> <p>Well during this session, we're going to be doing the same thing. We're going to be learning about some inspiring heroes of our community.We will be profiling 2 successful people, two people who have overcome challenges and obstacles to find success in their lives and you will have a chance to learn from their stories. It is hoped that their stories will inspire you, like they have the AIME Team, and that you will then get the chance to inspire them with your own story by writing them a letter.</p> <p>Now's my chance to put on the old grandparents voice. You kids may not know this, but it wasn't until the mid 1990s that mobile phones and the internet really took off.And before mobile phones, texting and emails, there was a form of communication that connected the western world for 1000s of years – letter writing.Letters were exchanged between loved ones and soldiers at war. Letters were written to friends and family, in the same way as a text or an email. Letters were used for the most important aspects of human existence, and sometimes the most trivial.</p> <p>Your parents will remember the days of the letter, as the home phone didn't really get going into every home until the 1950s.</p> <p>Now that the home phone is on the way out, mobiles, iPads, computers, email, YouTube, Facebook and everything else keeps us more instantly connected than ever. But often we miss out on the depth of connection that the letter provided.</p> <p>Over the next 2 weeks you will have the chance to unlock that power that has moved the world throughout history. Your goal is to, with the written word, try and inspire our two featured people and see if you can get a response from them or even get them to the End-of-Year celebration.</p> <p>So to start off the session we'll now be handing out the latest feature of the AIME Morning Herald, and in it you will have the chance to meet and learn about the stories of two incredibly inspiring people who have owned all the values that we spoke about...with your Mentor spend the next 5 minutes reading through the two articles.</p>	0-5
One-on-One working through Herald Articles	<p>Mentors and Mentees to read the AIME Herald articles one-on-one.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure you brief the Mentors of who the two people are before the session begins. 	5-10
Video 1: Jeremy Marou	<p>Ok guys, before we get stuck in, I'm going to show you a quick video from a letters guest who received letters from AIME Mentees just like you.</p> <p>Play Jeremy Marou Video</p>	10-12
Workbook	<p>"Turn to page 26 (Year 9 workbook) or page 18 (Year 10 workbook) if you haven't already and get into the session, work up to the top of page 31(Year 9) or 25(Year 10).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read through the history notes to give the Mentees context • Work through the question to get the minds ticking about who they are, who their role model is and what they have in common. Sharing their stories with their mentors. • A chance to re-read the articles and to work out who they want to select as their one person and why... • Float around and make sure they have picked their person and are getting ready to draft their letters.. <p>NOTE: Mentors can write a letter too. This can help the Mentee in their letter writing journey.</p>	12-30

Activity	Action	Timing
Video 2: Brenden Newton	Alright guys, let's hear from another guest who received some letters and see what happened as a result. Play Brenden Newton video.	30-32
Workbook	<p>"It's time to begin drafting your letter to your selected role model.</p> <p>Jump onto page 33 (Year 9) or 25 (Year 10), read the tips and get into it.</p> <p>Also make sure you use the information from the previous 3-4 pages as ideas for what you might write.</p> <p>And a final tip for this period...just write, free writing, get ideas out there, and get it down on paper. We'll use next week for the editing process. Off you go get into it" You can write a draft letter on pages 34 and 35(year 9) and 26 & 27 (Year 10)</p> <p>A quality letter will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correctly spelt name of recipient. • Brief sentence saying you recently studied the recipients life. • A brief introduction describing Mentee's personal story. • How the recipients story relates and inspires the Mentee's life. • Call to action - invite to EOY celebration (include date, time, venue) • Mentee/Mentor writing • Float if needed, otherwise just sit back • Play Grooveshark/background music. <p>Note: If the Mentee is flying in their letter, get the Mentor to write a letter to someone too.</p>	30-50
Presenter Close	Great work today team. You kids and Mentors are killing it!"	55-60

After the session

Collect the letters, read through each of them to make sure that there is no

- Child Protection Issues that should be followed up
- Inappropriate content which could offend the letters guest.

Follow the guests session process doc [found here](#) to ensure you complete all steps involved in inviting the guests to the end of year sessions.