

Directions:

If your character is likely to be on the battlefield, address your letter to a family member or friend at home. If your character is likely to be on the home front, address your letter to a family member or friend fighting in the war.

In your letter, include details on the topics below. Write in the present tense and the first person, as if you ARE your character. Support your letter with research- do not make up unlikely situations unless you can find real historical examples that match your story- but you do not need to cite your sources in the letter, as long as you have taken excellent notes with sources.

Each letter should include the following from YOUR perspective:

- Your side: are you, or are you writing to, a Confederate or Union soldier?
- The name of a battle you or your loved ones are fighting, its leaders, location, and the military units involved.
- Where you live and what kind of shelter you live in.
- What you eat, wear, and do for entertainment whether fighting or at home.
- Whether you agree or disagree with the cause you or your loved ones are fighting for, and whether you would change sides if you could.
- Whether you think there is an alternative to the war, or if the end of fighting is near.

Template:

Month, Day Year (1861-1865)

Dearest *(Name of friend or family member)*,

I am writing to you from *(Location, place name and specifics of housing situation)* where the *(Union/ Confederate)* forces have recently engaged us in battle. The conditions here are very *(good or bad, give details)*, and to pass the time, we *(describe the work, entertainment, or fighting)*. I *(do /do not)* think I can continue in this way. It is becoming more clear each day that the cause our forces are fighting for is *(just/ lost, give details of your opinion of the issues of slavery or state's rights)*. *(Friend or family member)* continues *(condition)* and *(explain if they are going to fight, die, recover etc)*.

How are you faring *(at home/ on the front)*? Please write and tell me how *(family member/ friend)* is. *(Ask if there is anything that you need if fighting, or can send if at home.)* Luckily, here we *(give good news about supplies, victories, or support)*, but we have great need of *(supply, people, or attitude that is in short supply)* and without it I fear we cannot be victorious.

I only wish that *(describe possible alternative to war)*. It seems like this war *(is nearly done/ will never end)* and that the *(Union/ Confederacy)* will be victorious. This is a *(joyful/ frightening)* prospect. *(Explain your plans if this does happen and what you most fear or look forward to)*. I pray that we shall soon meet again.

Yours truly,
(Name of your character)