

DEAR DORIS - GUIDE



◆ **Domain:**

Presentation

◆ **Benchmark:**

React to the content of something read

◆ **Description:**

Students are required to read letters written by teenagers in which they describe a particular problem and then write back with advice.

◆ **Rationale for choice of topic:**

Most modern magazines have a column devoted to giving advice, like, for example, the renowned “Dear Abby.” Many junior high school students enjoy reading these columns and are familiar both with the genre and the content. This type of activity can be found in many textbooks so we assume the genre is known to students.

◆ **Suggestions for implementation (prior to and/or during):**

You and/or your students may want to bring some “Dear Abby” type letters to class and have the students read them in class and discuss their unique characteristics. You may have the students themselves write “Dear Abby” letters with a description of problems of their choice.

◆ **Suggested time allotment:**

Single lesson

◆ **Prerequisites:**

- Familiarity with advice columns
- Understanding main ideas and supporting details

Name: _____

Class: _____



DEAR DORIS - TASK

In this task you will be asked to write a letter of advice:

Doris is a *counselor* for teenagers. She also has a regular *column* in a youth magazine. Teenagers write to her about their problems and she writes back with helpful advice. Her column is called "Helpful Advice from Doris." Doris is on vacation. Answer the letters that arrive while she is away.

1. **Read** the letters to Doris. **Identify** the problem in each and think about some advice you could give.
2. **Choose** one letter and **answer** it. (Write **at least** 100 words.)



Note:

Read the checklist before you start working and **fill it in** when you finish.

column - מדור - زاوية - مستشار/ة - יועצת - counselor

DEAR DORIS - CHECKLIST

What to check	✓
I wrote according to the features of a letter of advice.	
My advice is relevant to the problem.	
My advice is clear and the message comes across.	
I focused on the problem.	
I used appropriate and varied vocabulary.	
I checked my grammar.	
I checked my spelling.	

DEAR DORIS

A large rectangular box containing 20 horizontal lines for writing.

Dimension Assessed by	Text Type	Content	Vocabulary	Language Usage & Conventions
Teacher				
Self				
Peer				

Dear Doris,

My name is Yael and I'm 14 years old. My parents have recently decided to *get divorced* and I need help. They both asked me the same question: "Who would you like to live with?" My brother has chosen to live with my father, but my problem is that I love them both very much and can't decide who to live with. Doris, what should I do? Can you help me?

Thank you,
Yael

Dear Doris,

I feel so depressed lately. I always seem to be fighting with my parents. They don't understand me. They don't give me enough freedom. Every Friday night my friends get together. All my friends are allowed to stay out as long as they like. After all, we're already 14 years old. My parents expect me to be home by midnight! I don't even manage to enjoy myself!

Why don't my parents let me stay out as long as I want? What can I do?

Sincerely,
Tal

get divorced - להתגרש - **أن يتطلقا**

Dear Doris,

I am a student at a junior high school. I have never been a great student with high grades, but I was also never a bad student. My grades have always been average and I do all the work the teachers give me. But I also like to spend time with my friends and do other things besides study. Lately my grades have been going down. I failed the last English test and got a 50 in math. My parents are really angry. What should I do?

Waiting for your helpful advice,
Ron

Dear Doris,

My friend Shani and I have been in school together since 1st grade and we do everything together. Lately her behavior is strange. She doesn't call me anymore, she doesn't talk to me during school breaks, and she doesn't want to go out together. This began after I won the school cup for the "Best Sportsperson." I think she may be jealous. What do I do? I don't want our friendship to be destroyed just because I am good at sports.

I hope you can help me.
Regards,
Adi

DEAR DORIS - RUBRIC

Dimension	Text Type	Content	Vocabulary	Language Usage and Conventions
Criteria Grade Level	<i>Features of letter from advice column</i> <i>Length</i> <i>Empathy</i>	<i>Relevance of advice to problem</i> <i>Support for advice</i>	<i>Appropriacy to topic</i> <i>Range</i>	<i>Grammar, spelling and punctuation</i>
On Target 5	Includes opening, greeting, statement of purpose, sign off. Appropriate length of letter. Strong feeling of empathy comes across to reader.	Advice is directly relevant to problem. Support is directly related to advice.	Vocabulary is appropriate to topic and genre. Vocabulary is rich and varied.	Tenses are generally correct, both in form and use. Correct use of modals of advice. Mostly correct spelling. Correct punctuation throughout.
4				
On Your Way 3	Includes opening and sign off, but lacks greeting or statement of purpose. Letter is too long. Feeling of empathy comes across to reader.	Advice is relevant to problem. Support is related to advice.	Vocabulary is usually appropriate to topic and genre. Range of vocabulary is adequate.	Some mistakes in use and/or form of tenses. Usually correct use of modals of advice. Spelling mistakes detract from meaning or reader's understanding. Aware of need to punctuate by making some use of punctuation marks.
2				
Starting Out 1	Includes opening and sign off, but lacks greeting or statement of purpose. Letter is too short. No feeling of empathy.	Advice is not obviously related to problem. Support, if given, is not obviously related to advice.	Vocabulary is inappropriate to topic and/or genre. Vocabulary is poor and limited.	No sense of understanding use of tenses; mistakes in form detract from reader's understanding. No sense of understanding use of modals. Poor spelling makes it impossible to understand. No sense of understanding use of punctuation.

DEAR DORIS

My answer to Roh

Dear Roh!

I understand that your grades aren't so good lately. I know that you want to succeed and to spend time with your friends. I think that you need to be good at school. You can ask some friend to help you to study and enjoy with him. It is very important to succeed in school, and when you have time you can meet your friend too. Now, you need to study a lot to succeed.
good Luck!

Doris

My answer to _____

Text Type	Content	Vocabulary	Language Usage & Convention
5	4	5	4

DEAR DORIS

My answer to Jolia
Hi Jolia I hope you'll understand me I am
Not Doris and I am not good as her in this
job but i think that I can help you.
First of all you must keep practicing and also
in the same time you can be freindly and call
OR talk to your freind and that will be the
Best test for her if she wants you she will back
to ~~the~~ ~~for~~ your freind ship

Thanks and bye *Samuel*

My answer to _____

Text Type	Content	Vocabulary	Language Usage & Convention
5	3	3	3

DEAR DORIS

My answer to Tal

Dear Tal

I read your letter and I think that you need to
 speak with them and you need to explained them
 that all your friend are baking late and also you want
 to enjoy, and you can to call them every Howver to
 said them that you OK, they are only worry you
 and if you call them, they are relex. But don't
 fight with them because they don't listen you.
 Thank you and I hope my advice help you.

DORIS

My answer to _____

Text Type	Content	Vocabulary	Language Usage & Convention
4	3	2	2