

Some Tips for Writing to Authors

Don't "require," "demand," or even necessarily *expect* a response...

Do understand that authors receive *lots* of mail and may not be able to respond to every piece they receive. Understand that they will appreciate your sincere response to their work, even if they're not able to write back to you.

Don't ask questions that are already answered on the author's blog or web page...

Do research about the author so you have a sense of whom you're addressing, beyond the name on the cover of a favorite book.

Don't ask questions that might violate the author's privacy...

Do be respectful of authors as people who may not be comfortable sharing personal details.

Don't criticize or suggest changes to a book...

Do keep the focus on why you felt the book was powerful or important to you. If you have criticism to share, consider posting it on a review page for the book at an online bookseller.

Don't be embarrassed or timid about sharing your response to a favorite book...

Authors love hearing heartfelt, thoughtful responses to their work. Let them know how their work has affected you!

Adapted from Buehler, Jennifer. "Ways to Join the Living Conversation about Young Adult Literature." *English Journal*. January 2009. Available online at http://www.readwritethink.org/lesson_images/lesson1153/BuehlerEJ.pdf.