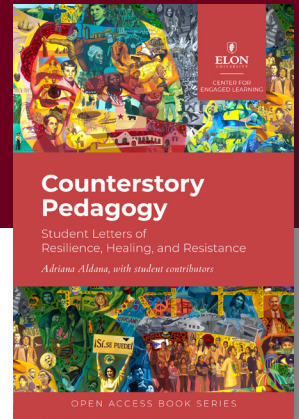


REFLECTING ON POSITIONALITY AND WRITING LETTERS



Objective

This worksheet helps students reflect on their positionality and provides prompts to guide them in writing a letter as part of counterstory pedagogy.

Part 1: Pre-Writing Reflecting on Positionality

Your Social Identity

- How would you describe your race, ethnicity, gender, class, ability, sexual orientation, and other aspects of your identity?
- Which parts of your identity feel most central to who you are?

Your Lived Experiences

- Reflect on an experience when your identity shaped the way you were treated or how you understood a social justice-related situation.
- How has your identity shaped navigating personal, educational, or professional spaces?
- What privileges do you hold, and what barriers have you faced?

Connecting Identity to Social Systems

- Think about the systems of power and oppression (e.g., racism, sexism, classism) that intersect with your identity. How have these shaped your opportunities and challenges?
- How does your positionality influence your interactions with peers, professors, or colleagues?

Part 2: Sample Letter Writing Prompt

Letter to Yourself

- Write a letter to your past self reflecting on a time you faced a challenge and what you learned from it. What would you tell your younger self?
- Write a letter to your future self about your aspirations and the kind of person you hope to become.



Letter to a Peer or Mentor

- Write a letter to a peer or mentor who has influenced your growth. What would you like to thank them for, and what lessons have they taught you?

Letter as a Counter-Narrative

- Think about a stereotype or assumption that others have made about you. Write a letter challenging that narrative and offering your truth instead.
- Reflect on an issue of social justice that matters to you. Write a letter to someone in power explaining your perspective and advocating for change.

Part 3: Reflections on Letter Writing

This reflection can be completed individually (as a journal entry) or collectively as a group discussion.

What Did You Learn?

- How did writing your letter help you reflect on your identity or lived experiences?
- How did it feel to connect your personal story to larger systems of power or oppression?
- What insights might others gain from reading your letter?