

Letter to the Mayor

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In 2009, more than 2 thousand children sent letters to the mayor of Chicago. Their teachers asked them to write. They said that the mayor wanted to know what the children thought. He wanted to learn their ideas about Chicago.

The children wrote many different letters. Some wrote about trash. They wanted people to stop littering. Some wrote about gangs. They wanted people to stop the gangs. Some wrote about streets. They wanted to have safer streets. Some wanted to have more parks. Some wanted more playgrounds. And some wanted to have computers for every student. There were many different ideas.

The mayor read some of the letters. He asked some of the children to come to see him. They went downtown. They went to his office. His office is in a place called City Hall.

They read their letters out loud. The mayor listened. Then he said that the letters were good. They would help him make plans for the city.

When the children left, they were proud. They went back to their schools. They told other children about the mayor. They told their teachers he liked the letters. They thanked their teachers for asking them to write the letters.

The newspaper had an article about this event. The same day the children visited, people read about the visit to the mayor. The newspaper printed some of the letters. Parents were proud. So were the children.

EXPLAIN WHAT YOU LEARNED

1. Underline the most important information in each paragraph.
2. Write a short summary that tells what the passage explains. Include only the most important information.

Start your summary this way:

The main idea of the passage is _____.
Here is information that helps you understand that idea.

Then finish the summary. Include the information that helps explain the main idea.