

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.

Identify/Analyze/Infer Cause-Effect Relations – Nonfiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

Choose the best answer for each question

1. Why did the children write the letters?

- a. They wanted to.
- b. They liked the mayor.
- c. Their teachers assigned it.
- d. Their school did it.

3. What happened because the children read their letters to the mayor?

- a. The children got good grades.
- b. The mayor learned their ideas.
- c. The schools got playgrounds.
- d. The children visited the mayor.

2. What happened because the children sent the letters?

- a. The mayor asked them to meet with him.
- b. The city got cleaner.
- c. The neighborhoods were safer.
- d. The teachers did a good job.

4. What could happen because the letters were in the newspaper?

- a. People would stop littering.
- b. There would be more parks.
- c. Many people would learn about the children's ideas.
- d. The children would get computers.

5. *Write your own answer to this question. What do you think will happen because the mayor read the letters?*

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	c	a	b	c

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.
The mayor will make changes.