

## Writing Activity: Contrasting Feelings About the War in a Letter

Cluster 2 page 80

**Directions:** Imagine you are one of the soldiers in Cluster One or Cluster Two writing a letter home. **Contrast** the feelings you had at the beginning of the war with your feelings about the progress of the war now—1863. You will have to make up the name of the person you are writing to, the place you are writing from, and the date.

Fill out the chart below to create the personality of the letter writer and the identity of the person he (or she) is writing to.

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Cluster 2 page 80

Date

Place

What is your name?

To whom are you writing?

Are you enthusiastic about the war? Why or why not?

What news do you have to share?

What details about life as a soldier would you like to share?

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Cluster 2 page 80

What is your view of the outcome of the war?

Do you feel different now than you did when you joined the cause you are fighting for? Explain.

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Cluster 2 page 80

Use the most interesting information from the form in your letter home. Remember these tips while writing a personal letter.

- Include the date and the place you are writing from.
- A personal letter can be informal; but remember, people of the Civil War period would not be familiar with today's slang terms.
- The content of your letter should include details that the receiver of the letter will find interesting.
- Close with a personal note such as *Love*, *Take care*, *Your son/daughter*, *Your friend*, *Sincerely*, etc.