

Communication



The act of expressing yourself to another person, or to a group of people. We all know that communication has evolved, and continues to evolve. The internet has sped this process up. Couple the rapid increase of technology, plus the fact that your generation has the attention span of a goldfish

(about 6 seconds), and it's difficult to keep up!

What is your preferred method of communication? Are you a picture person? A textual person? A combination? Or do you prefer other methods? Based on what seems to be popular in 2013, there is a method for everyone. Just stay off Myspace. That's for weirdos...



Facebook allows you to write what's on your mind in a brief blurb. For the record, nobody cares you went to the gym. Twitter only gives you 140 characters. By the way,

we don't need to know every thought that has ever come into your brain.

Vine makes you squeeze a video into 6 seconds. Now with Instagram, everyone and their mother is a professional photographer. No, I don't care what you had for breakfast. Snapchat allows you to limit how long



Instagram

someone can view your pictures, in seconds! Texts, on average, are never longer than 3 sentences per. We've even created abbreviations based on how people text (LMFAO, BRB, IDC, ILY). And for crying out loud, what the hell is the point of using a "hashtag". #STUPID #SAYWHATYOUAREGOINGTOSAY

#NOTNECESSARY. Just for the record, if you see the symbol # in real life, it means "number". On a phone, it means pound. NEVER, EVER EVER EVER EVER read that out loud as "hashtag" or people will mock you. Deservedly so...

[Facebook law for idiots](#)

[Instagram song](#)

[Http://wwwFOUNDERS.archives.gov](http://wwwFOUNDERS.archives.gov)

Founding Fathers [Documents](#)

Before you do anything else, we will read Washington's brief letter to Thomas Jefferson. Please note a few things. First, note how Washington, a grown man addresses Jefferson at the end in his closing. Second, note the methodical manner which Washington goes through his list of issues that he wished to discuss with Jefferson. Lastly, please note how the visual layout of the letter is very traditional, with a heading, proper opening and closing. This was not done in 5 minutes, nor was it rushed. Interesting concept, huh?

So now for your two part assignment. First, you have a choice as to which letter you will read. The "Blue" assignment is to read the letter that Hamilton writes to Washington. The "Columbia" assignment is to read the letter that Jefferson writes to Washington. The Jefferson is a bit longer, but which one you read is your choice.

Afterwards, you will answer the questions below on a separate sheet of paper. Clearly, there were some issues in our founding fathers, and we will discuss them when we go over the assignment.

Secondly, you will hand write a letter (at least one page, single spaced in a normal handwriting and size) to someone in your life. This letter should be written in the same, meticulous style that the letters you have been given are written in. You will include reasons for writing the letter, issues that you would like to discuss with this person, your personal feelings toward this person, and if you should so choose, your opinions of other people that you both know. The letter should be written as if you expect a response to it, so the inclusion of questions or requests is also something that would be effective. Please also use your own version of a personal, meaningful closing to your letter as Washington, Jefferson and Hamilton all did.

Questions about the original letter to be answered:

1. Starting at the conclusion, how does Jefferson/Hamilton end their letter to Washington? Does this seem strange to you? Why?
2. Would a closing like that be socially acceptable today? Why or why not?
3. If you wrote a letter like that, would you care if someone published it later on while you were alive? What if it were published it posthumously?
4. What manner did Jefferson/Hamilton express their ideas about the other to Jefferson? Was it civil? Was it petty, or polite? Why was it done this way?
5. Whose writing style do you prefer? Washington or Hamilton/Jefferson? Why?
(Note: You cannot say Washington because his letter is shorter!!!)