**Rubric for Letter – 8th grade**

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|  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Format | Poor spelling, grammar and incomplete sentences. No sense of organization to the writing. | Incomplete sentences, significant grammatical errors. Lacks flow. | Complete sentences, few grammatical errors. Lacks flow. Other errors. | Complete sentences, correct grammar. Lacks flow. Other errors. | Complete sentences, logical flow, correct grammar.  |
| Length | 1 paragraph with few sentences. | Letter is 2 paragraphs long and/or has very few sentences per paragraph. | Letter is 3 paragraphs long and all are less than 5 sentences. Does not follow ELA format. | Letter is 3 paragraphs long and some paragraphs have less than 6 sentences. Follows ELA format. | Letter is 3 paragraphs long and each paragraph has a minimum of 6 sentences. Follows ELA format. |
| Mindfulness | Letter is mindless. It lacks reflective thought or in depth analysis of one’s own thoughts or feelings. | Letter shows some signs of careful thought but was clearly rushed or not carefully enough considered. | Letter is thoughtful and reflective but does not share what student already knows or what student wonders or questions. | Letter is thoughtful, reflective and discusses student’s understanding but does not probe or consider new questions. | Letter is thoughtful, reflective and discusses student’s understanding and/or questions. |
| Intrigue | Letter is boring. Writer is clearly bored by what he/she is writing. | Letter attempts to engage reader but is not thinking at a high enough level (yet) to be interesting (reference DOK) | Letter is interesting to read but mistakes in other categories (format, mindfulness) make it very difficult to understand and therefore difficult to enjoy. | Letter is interesting to read but mistakes in other categories (format, mindfulness) make it somewhat difficult to understand and therefore difficult to enjoy. | Letter is interesting to read: leaves reader excited to find out more. |