

“How to Write a Letter”

Study Questions

1. What purpose does Keillor give for writing his essay? (Who is his intended audience?)
2. Note Keillor’s use of rhetorical devices such as epanaphora, similes, and list.
3. Generally, imperative (commands such as “Skip this”) isn’t used in essay writing. However, Keillor’s essay relies heavily upon it. Do you think his use of imperative is effective? Why or why not?
4. At several points in this essay, Keillor defines “letter” and “writing.”
5. Summarize, in the form of a list, the steps Keillor gives for writing letters.