

# Family History Stories & Student Goals

## Thanksgiving Letter Request Form, StudentMotivation.org Project

**To Students: Read this full page first. Then fill out a separate copy of this Thanksgiving Letter Request Form for each of your parents, grandparents, or other close relatives you want a letter from.** Write on the lines below why you would value the letter of this person. You may also ask for a specific family history story you heard about, or a type of story from family history, like a first date, the birth of a specific relative, or a special family celebration.

To: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_

### To each person receiving this request from a student:

**First: Write what we call a Thanksgiving Letter to your student giving you this request. Write first about your goals and dreams for your student.** Goals are the most valuable gifts any adult can give their child, grandchild, great grandchild, niece or nephew. Your gift helps them form or update their own goals. Next, increase the value of your letter by **including a story from your own life.** Such a family story is especially valuable if the story you share reflects the values of your family, values you hope the student will use in forming their life goals.

**Second: After sending your letter to your student, ask for time to meet or call them to read the letter together and allow them to ask you questions.** Such discussions are priceless! They will improve your student's self-image. It will help them become better students. **Such an annual meeting could become valuable for both of you.**

Your student will bring your letter to school. They will be given an envelope to self-address and hold all their letters, including a letter they will write to themselves about each of the letters they received and their own goals for their future. It will be stored in the School Time-Capsule Vault until next year's letter writing process when returned to your student so all the letters can be re-read in preparation for the next letter writing. **Student goals evolve more realistically as students think more often about life with the help of extended family.**

