

## Starting a [RootsandGoals.org](http://RootsandGoals.org) Homework Project for students from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through first letter as seniors

The start of a student focus on family roots and life goals in any school is most effective if it starts in all grades as early in the school year as possible. Students conversations about this project at home and in school help it become **powerful!**

In the Handout section of the [RootsandGoals.org](http://RootsandGoals.org) website it is the second form titled **“Family Letters about Roots & Goals for Students ages 8 past 18”** that drives **this Project for the most students. Please read that form before continuing.** **The English version of that form is on the back of this page.**

You will need to make an average of 5 or more copies of the bilingual two-sided Handout #2 per student. Each student will need one copy to give to each parent, grandparent, and other relative they are requesting a letter from. The number of potential letters is up to you. Students can write a personal note to each of these relatives to increase the potential for getting a letter back. Each student will also need the two envelopes to be self-addressed and used as indicated.

It is strongly recommended this project be started as soon as possible so the positive changes can begin asap. A focus on life goals and family roots is very sobering. Students become much more serious about studies.

Set a deadline for bringing the unsealed Roots & Goals Envelope with copies of all letters to school. As students witness other students with letters, and families talk among themselves about the Project, the percentage of students getting letters will increase each year. The letter by the student to themselves about their own life goals is the primary letter, even if no other letters are received.

**This must remain a voluntary project with an alternative homework writing assignment always available. School Counselors must be involved and alerted to this project as it may expose family issues that deserve attention.**

It is my strong opinion after 20 years with this project that it strengthens family relationships significantly, especially by involving extended family and friends, and taking some of the pressure off parents. Letters to distant relatives can be especially priceless! It takes a village to raise a child, as all educators know well.

Bill Betzen 2/24/26, Comments & questions are valued.

Always put words Roots & Goals in email subject line. [bbetzen@aol.com](mailto:bbetzen@aol.com)

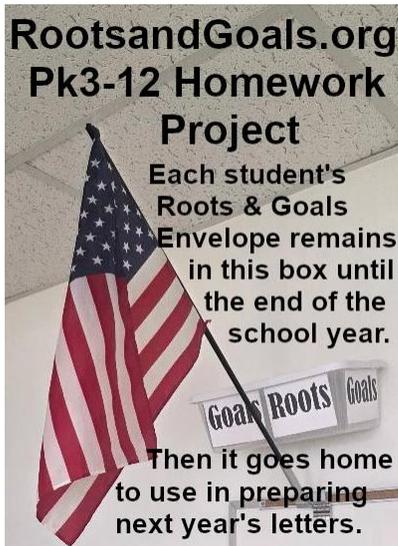
# Family Letters about Roots & Goals for Students ages 8 past 18

Dear parents and relatives of our students ages 8 to past 18,

Every person blessed with a child, grandchild, great grandchild, niece or nephew, ages 8 to past 18, wants the very best education possible for their child. Students who study hard are those with updated life goals and a growing understanding of their family history.

Family members are the best people to help students know their family history, and both develop and update personal life goals. To better achieve these goals each parent, grandparent, or other close relative, should begin writing a letter every year to their student about their life goals for the child. They should also include a story from their own life or family history, family roots, that they want to share. (Do not let your stories die with you!)

After finishing your letter, you always meet with your student to read your letter together, either in person or by phone. You answer questions and discuss the letter. Your student will then write a letter to themselves about every letter they received and their own goals for their life. School progress by your student will surpass students without such a focus.



All the valuable original letters written in this process are stored in one of two Roots & Goals Envelopes provided by the school, including the letter your student wrote to themselves. Two copies (available free in public libraries) are made of each of these original letters. One goes to the original letter writer for each letter. The original letters remain at home in one dated and self-addressed Roots and Goals Envelope. The remaining copies of each letter go into the also dated and self-addressed envelope to be brought to school, unsealed, by your student. The teacher counts the number of total letters in this envelope and puts that number under the students address on the envelope and circles it. The envelope is sealed and returned to the student who places it in the Roots & Goals Envelope Box near the flag in the room where they say their daily Pledge of Allegiance.

When the daily Pledge of Allegiance is said your child will see their Roots & Goals Envelope Box. They will know their envelope is in it. They will be reminded of their letters and the goals and history they and their family wrote about. If they ever forget what was written in the letters, they can always see the original letters at home.

At the end of every school year each Roots & Goals Envelope from the Box goes home with their student. Letters are re-read to prepare to write new letters for the next school year. (Do you regret not having such letters from your own school years?)

**Now, please write a letter to your student about your goals and dreams for them this year. Include a story from your own life or family roots that your student would value. Read it with them, discussing it.**

Encouraging Life Goals and Family Roots awareness for your student,  
Your school's **RootsandGoals.org** Homework Project Team, 2-19-2026