



An Post Handwriting Competition



Every day, you see the importance and power of words in the classroom. At An Post, we recognise the power of words to connect people, inspire ideas and create positive change. When young people express themselves, share their ideas and turn their thoughts into action, they can help to Make Better Happen in their own lives, communities and the wider world.

Spoken word and rap have become important forms of self-expression for young people, helping them explore the world around them and respond to real-world issues. This year, we're delighted to team up with **Kabin Crew**, who are inspiring young people across Ireland through music, creativity and self-expression. Their message is simple: **Your words have power. Use them.**

For this year's An Post Handwriting Competition, we invite your pupils to do just that - using their best handwriting to **share how their words, ideas and actions can help to Make Better Happen.**

To participate in the An Post **"Making better happen"** Handwriting Competition, complete the following steps. Please note that the Teacher Guide on the next page will help your pupils explore the theme and create their individual entries!



Explore the theme of 'Making Better Happen' and how words can positively influence and impact the world around us. Use the Teacher's Guide on the following page to explore this.

Ask your pupils to respond to the theme of 'Making Better Happen' by writing a letter (Template 1), or a song, rap or poem (Template 2). Optional but not adjudicated: Pupils can illustrate their writing with a picture.

Ask your pupils to use our handwriting checklist to edit their work.

- Fill out the class entry form and attach the handwritten copy of pupils' entries. Send it to:
An Post Handwriting Competition
PO Box 13287
FREEPOST FDN7461
Dublin 1
- The deadline for entry submission is
22nd January 2027.

1. Entries will be judged on handwriting.
2. There will be no adjudication of any drawings included as part of an entry. The provision of the drawing task as part of the Teacher Guide is to enable further exploration of the theme in a visual arts capacity and as an option for pupils who complete the handwriting task early.
3. Guideline for 1st - 2nd class: up to 20-30 words per pupil entry.



Welcome to the An Post Handwriting Competition Teacher Guide.

We've put together some activities about writing and its importance. Please use the Classroom Slides to accompany the lesson.

1. Introduction

- **Slide 3 - (What am I?)**
Discuss and elicit from pupils the following:
 - The image shows a letter. How do pupils know it's a letter?
 - There are key elements to writing a letter e.g. an address, the date, using 'Dear', saying goodbye.
 - A letter is a way of communicating in writing.
- **Slide 4 - (Writing All Around!)**
 - In small groups ask pupils to think of other ways of communicating in writing e.g. diary, postcard, notes, poem.
 - Discuss as a class.
- **Slide 5 - (Pass it on!)**
 - Play this game using the phrase 'We can make the world better through every word every letter'.
 - Discuss the importance of being able to communicate clearly and why words are so important.

2. Video

- **Slide 7 - (View the Kabin Crew!)**
 - Show pupils the video.
- **Slide 8 - (Let's Think!)**
 - Discuss the video using the prompt questions.
- **Slide 9 - (Word Power!)**
 - Discuss as a class using the prompt questions.

3. Reading and Writing

- **Slide 11 - (Lyrics Challenge)**
 - Show pupils the lyrics. Ask them, working in groups to continue the lyrics for the next 2 to 4 lines.
 - "We can make the world better
Through every word every letter
Turn the page on how we act
Time to make changes that will last..."
- **Slide 12 - Optional Activity (Word Up!)**
 - Ask each group to perform their song/rap. You are welcome to share recordings of your performance with us. These will not be judged but may be used for promotional purposes. We will contact you for consent before sharing on our website, social media or other promotional channels.
- **Slide 13 - (Handwriting Competition))**
 - Ask pupils, working individually, to respond to the theme of '**Making Better Happen**' by composing a letter, poem, rap or song, about the importance of words and how they can be used in positive ways to make the world better.
 - Ask pupils to use the template provided to write their composition.
 - Ask pupils to self-check their writing, using the checklist provided.

4. Entry Submission

- Write the final version of the letter, poem, rap or song in the template provided. A copy could be made of these and retained for the pupils to display in an area in the classroom or shared with parents.
- Complete the entry form **PER CLASS** and send entries to the address on page 1 of this document.



Template 1

My Letter



Name:

Class:

School:

School:

- ☐ I wrote using my neatest handwriting.
- ☐ I used spaces.
- ☐ I used capital letters at the beginning of each sentence.
- ☐ I used full stops or exclamation marks at the end of each sentence.
- ☐ I tried my best when spelling my words.

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Template 2

My Song, Poem or Rap



Name:

Class:

School:



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Draw it!

Think about how words can make things better in the world around us. Imagine you are looking out a window to a scene that shows what this looks like. Draw it!

