

an
post

Making
better happen

5th and 6th Class

An Post Handwriting Competition



Dear Teacher,

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.

In the Age of AI, the ability to think critically and creatively, and to express yourself clearly and confidently, is more important than ever. We want to **empower young people to find their voice**, championing literacy and self-expression as powerful tools for creating positive change.

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**.

An Post Writing Competition

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!



Step 1: Explore

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.

Step 2: Write

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.

Step 3: Check your Work

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

Step 4: Send it in!

- 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**.

Adjudication Criteria/Notes:

- Entries will be judged on handwriting.
- 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.
- Guideline: 1 page or more 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 - (Who am I?) Discuss the image (taken from the Kabin Crew video).**
 - Ask pupils to use hints in the image to think about who the person is? Where are they? What are they doing? Why are they doing it? (This is a member of the Kabin Crew posting a letter.) Inform pupils that this image is taken from a video. Elicit from pupils what the video is about.
- **Slide 4 & 5 - (Dear Principal ...) Discuss and elicit from pupils the following:**
 - The image shows an example of persuasive letter writing. There are key elements to writing a persuasive letter including - stating your opinion in the introduction, giving facts to support, using persuasive vocabulary and emotive language, concluding by restating your opinion and summarising your points.
 - A letter is a way of communicating in writing.
- **Slide 6 & 7 - (Writing All Around!)**
 - In small groups ask pupils to think of other ways of communicating in words e.g. postcard, notes, poem, rap, song. Discuss as a class.
- **Slide 8 - Optional Activity (Step In) Example statements: Step into the circle if you**
 - Think pineapple should never be on pizza; Prefer YouTube over TikTok; Think the book version is always better than the movie version; Think school uniforms are a good idea; Think we should have more wind power in Ireland; Think being outdoors is more fun than being online. Discuss some of pupils' opinions and their rationale. Discuss the importance of being able to express our opinions and being able to listen to the opinion/voice of others.

2. Video

- **Slide 10 - (View the Kabin Crew!) Show pupils the video.**
- **Slide 11 - (Let's Think!) Discuss the video using the prompt questions.**
- **Slide 12 - (Word Power!) Discuss as a class using the prompt questions.**
 - Question 1 - Examples:
 - ...to stand up for yourself, or a friend?
 - ...to resolve conflicts?

- ...to get help/attention?
- ...to advocate for others?
- ...to make others understand your feelings/opinions?
- ...to disagree with an opinion?
- Question 2 - Examples of people who used their voices for good
 - Mary Robinson, Emer O' Neill, Bono, Sinéad Burke, Mahatma Gandhi, Helen Keller, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Greta Thunberg.

3. Reading and Writing

- **Slide 14 - Optional Activity (Your Future Self!)**
 - Ask pupils, working in groups, to imagine it is June 2027. What issue in their local area, Ireland, or the World would they use their voice to improve and to make better by 2027. Ask them in their groups to write a letter to a politician, or a person in power, persuading them to address this issue.
- **Slide 15 - (Hear our Words!)**
 - Ask each group to read out their letter and discuss.
- **Slide 16 - (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. 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.
 - 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

- Once the composition is completed on the templates provided, a copy could be made and retained for the pupils to display in an area in the classroom or shared with parents.
- Ensure **Pupil Name, Class Level and School Name** have been completed on pupils' forms.
- Complete the entry form PER CLASS and send entries to the address on page 1 of this document.

an
post

Making
better happen

Template 1

My Letter



Name:

Class:

School:



an
post

Making
better happen

Template 2

My Song, Poem or Rap



Name:

Class:

School:

Handwriting practice lines for the poem or song.

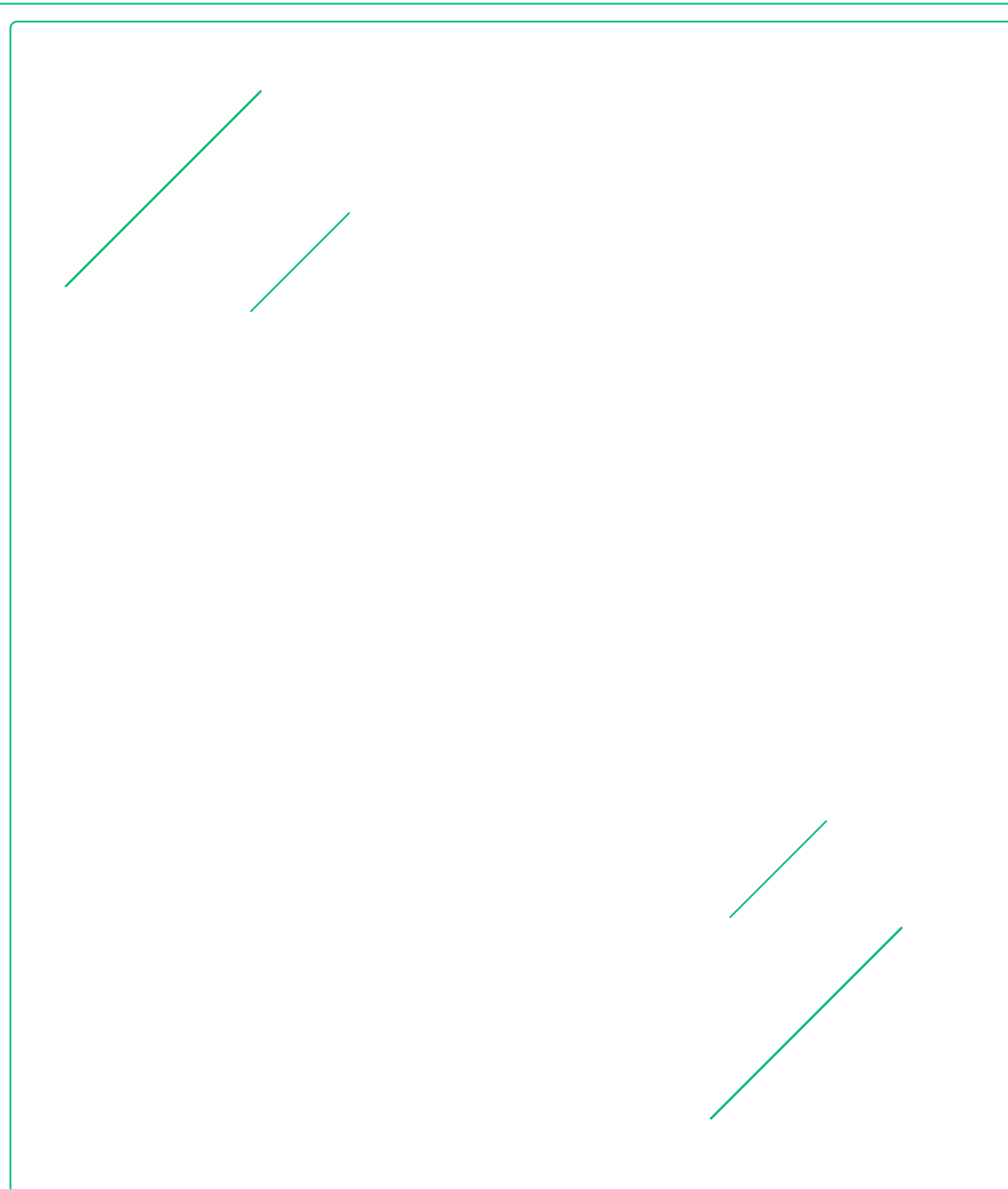
- ☐ I wrote using my neatest handwriting.
- ☐ I used spaces.
- ☐ I used capital letters at the beginning of each sentence.
- ☐ I used punctuation marks.
- ☐ I tried my best when spelling my words.

an
post

Making
better happen

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!



**an
post**

Making
better happen

Additional Writing Paper



Name:

Class:

School:

