

[Dear Stranger](#) is a statewide letter-exchange project that Humanities Nebraska modeled after a program by the same name at Oregon Humanities. Dear Stranger encourages people to reflect on their experiences and beliefs and make new connections by writing letters to strangers: write a letter, get a letter, and make a new connection.

How it works:

The theme this year ties into the celebration of our 50th anniversary. The following prompt is offered:

Write about a national or local public event from the last 50 years – a celebration, anniversary, or gathering that occurred between 1972 and 2022 – that was personally meaningful to you. Share how that experience felt, why you hold onto it, and how it affected you.



Instructions for Participants:

1. Write a letter addressed to “Dear Stranger.” Letters can be as short or long as a writer likes (even a postcard).
2. Mail your letter and [signed participant form](#) to “Dear Stranger,” c/o Humanities Nebraska, 215 Centennial Mall South Ste 330, Lincoln, NE 68508 **by February 15, 2023**. Anyone, of any age, may participate, and to do so anonymously should they choose. We also ask participants to complete the [participation form](#) indicating their understanding that Humanities Nebraska is not responsible for the content of letters and that, if they are under 18 or younger, they have a parent or guardian’s permission to participate. This is a one-to-one exchange; each writer receives the letter written by the person who receives theirs. All letters are screened for offensive content and we may, with permission, publish letters or excerpts on our website.
3. If a participant wants to respond to the Dear Stranger letter they received, we ask them to include a return address in the body of their reply and mail it to us so we can send it on to the person they were paired with. If they would also like to continue correspondence, the parties can continue their exchange directly.

Questions about Dear Stranger? Please email DearStranger@humanitiesnebraska.org or visit our website and click on “[Dear Stranger](#)” under programs.

Support for Dear Stranger has been provided by Postscript (Ashland, Nebraska).