



**My Letter to the World:  
The Art of the Letter  
and the Letter Poem  
G220109  
Anita Skeen**

October 16 - 22, 2022

Dear Ghost Ranch Writers,

I'm writing to welcome you to our class, "This is My Letter to the World: The Art of the Letter/The Letter Poem," which will be offered at Ghost Ranch October 16-22, 2022. I know we are all eager to be back on the Ranch again rather than appearing as postage stamps on a computer screen, so I look forward to our week together exploring various forms of the letter and letter poems and writing some pieces which reflect our experiences, relationships, and ideas. You have read the course description, so I won't repeat what is included there other than to say that letters and letter poems are appropriate for all subjects, all times, and all ages and many people are worried that in this age of email and tweets, the letter is a dying art. I hope not, and I hope you're taking this class because you share my belief. We'll spend from 9:00 to 12:00 each morning in our class reading pieces by famous and not-so-famous writers, talking about what makes the writing effective, and choosing prompts for our own writing during the afternoon and evening. I hope that each of you will return to class the following morning with a draft of the assignment and be willing to share it with other class members. If you wish to keep it private, that's fine. Don't let fear of having to share your work keep you from writing what you really want to say, but remember that comments from your classmates can often help you shape the draft and revise so that you have a stronger piece of writing. In the evenings, we'll gather with writers from other writing classes to hear instructors talk about the work, read some of their writing, and take questions about craft and technique.

I will provide a bound course pack with the material we will be reading and talking about for a cost of about \$20 which I will collect from you in our first session. There will be more material in this book than we can get through in the week so that you will have models to work from when you get home and new writers/writing with which to acquaint yourself. On the final night of the week, there will be a Participants' Reading where writers in all the classes are invited to read one piece they have written during the week and the whole Ranch is invited to this gathering. There will also be an art show that same night for visual artists so that we can all share in what's been created during the week.

I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones in this class. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [skeen@msu.edu](mailto:skeen@msu.edu). I will be driving to the Ranch for our week together and will be leaving home about 3rd of October to wend my way west teach another class at Ghost Ranch the week before this one and will not be on email during that time. So, write me before that date if you have questions.

Looking forward to seeing you this Fall.

Anita

EDUCATION & RETREAT CENTER

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