

Leslie Sharp

Mode:	Letter
Media:	Google docs and paper
Audience:	Teaching Partner
Purpose:	My purpose for writing this letter to encourage Tamra to read the book, <i>Beyond the Five Paragraph Essay</i> .
Situation:	I wrote this as part of my coursework for the Chippewa River Writing Project which has to be done by July 14, 2015. I will then give this letter and book to my colleague in August.

Dear Tamra,

Four score and two months ago, our leaders of the Chippewa River Writing Project brought forth a challenge to us, a letter to be written to a colleague about a book we were going to read, *Beyond the Five Paragraph Essay* by Kimberly Hill Campbell and Kristi Latimer.

Now we are engaged in writing such letter, one that proclaims its virtues and best practices, testing our knowledge of the book, or any book that defies the traditional essay. It is challenging, but one I know we can endure. We can prove to our fellow colleagues that this book is worthy of reading, ingesting, and implementing. This book can be misinterpreted by its title because the word "beyond" has numerous definition such as "at or to the further side of" or "continuing after¹". Instead, in this book "beyond" means deeper, not more; deeper writing, more critical thinking and writing. We have come to champion this book. For if we don't, who will?

But in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this book, each reader must do so on their own. This book gives hope. Hope of new ideas for how a teacher can have their students creatively write informational and narrative texts. Since in the past, we have always used the five paragraph format for our student's persuasive essays (DBQ/Pat Trommater's outline) -- for their Michigan Hero project -- for any writing we have done. It's time to change. It's time to triumph their creativity like this writing project has inspired mine. It's time to allow our students to explore and use their intelligence and creativity to inspire their writing. That the time spent reading this book not be in vain -- that this book should inspire you and other teachers to go out and spread the knowledge you have gained just as I have.

Leslie Sharp
June 25, 2015

¹ Definition of beyond according to Google web search.