

# *Dear Abby Letter*

## *Materials/Resources:*

- \*Paper
- \*Pencil
- \*Sample question/answer for instruction

## *Skills Targeted:*

- \*Reading Comprehension
- \*Syntax
- \*Writing Mechanics
- \*Pragmatics
- \*Problem Solving
- \*Semantics
- \*Vocabulary
- \*Predicting
- \*Elaboration

## *Instruction:*

1. This is a group writing activity which requires each student to write a problem or issue in a *Dear Abby* format. Caution the students to not write anything too personal or revealing. Rather, the student writes about a common dilemma that he or she is facing. Begin by reading and discussing an example of the activity.
2. Once each student has completed their question portion of the lesson, collect the questions.
3. Pre-read the questions before disseminating to a paired student and consider individual strengths and weaknesses when matching the question/answer activity between students.
4. After assigning each student a question to answer, students write an insightful answer to the stated question. Instruct the students to use elaboration to fully answer the question.
5. Once answers are completed, return papers to the owners of the questions.
6. Review as a class, the lesson outcome. Invite the students to read their question and answer response and provide feedback as to whether the answer was relevant or helpful.