

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Grateful Hearts Answer Key

Since this is a creative writing exercise, there are no "correct" answers. However, a successful worksheet should meet these criteria:

- **Tone:** The writing is serious, respectful, and polite.
- **Content:** All five steps are completed with logical thoughts.
- **Punctuation:** Proper use of commas in the salutation and closing.
- **Connection:** The student successfully links military service to the concept of national freedom.

### Teacher Guide

This worksheet serves as a pre-writing tool to help middle school students move beyond "Happy Veterans Day" and toward more **substantive** communication.

- **Engagement Tips**
  - Discuss the concept of a **civilian**. Explain that as civilians, our role is to acknowledge the work done by those in the military.
  - Share examples of respectful language versus casual language (e.g., using "Dear" instead of "Hey").
- **Differentiation for Grades 6-7**
  - Encourage students to research a specific branch and mention something unique to that branch's mission (e.g., mention the "open seas" if writing to a Navy veteran).
  - Require students to use at least two **vocabulary words** from previous lessons, such as integrity, valor, or armistice.
- **Extension Ideas**
  - **Peer Review:** Have students swap their draft sections and check for tone and clarity before they write the final version.
  - **Hand-Drawn Borders:** Let students create a patriotic border or illustration on their final letter to make it a piece of art.