

Hi [REDACTED]

Referring to points in previous letters  
shows engagement and interest in pre-  
scientist and their interests

I am so happy to hear from you! Budgies are so cute! When I worked at the pet store, I used to play with them a lot. They are fun as long as they don't bite! Are birds your favorite animal? I have been practicing my spanish all month - I use an app called Duolingo that makes it fun. It is still snowing here! I am tired of winter! Do you ever want to live in a different place? I think I would like living in Los Angeles. Snow is pretty for a little while, but then it's just cold and slippery. I like summer a lot more.



I think math is hard too! Sometimes I get really frustrated with myself when I can't do something right away, but you are right, sometimes it just takes extra time to figure something out and that is okay. I had to take Calculus twice in college to pass. The trick is not to give up. It feels really good to conquer something difficult. Luckily, I don't have to do a lot of math anymore (and when I do, I can use a calculator). We all have weaknesses, but once you get past them they seem less scary. I bet you have a lot of strengths too. Like languages! What is your favorite subject in school?

Sharing  
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on their own

That sounds cool, I like watching videos online. Did you know you can get DNA out of fruit at home? You can do it in your kitchen with salt, dish soap, and alcohol (you need your parent's help with that part, but you don't need very much). [This is a video of the experiment.](#) There is so much DNA, you can actually see it! It's the layer on top in this picture. This is a cool youtube channel, they interview biologists with different jobs too.



I like working from home, but I don't think I would like going to school online. It is much more fun to do experiments and learn things in person. Do you miss your friends?

I guess I just sort of kept going! Finishing college seems like a really big thing to do, but you just have to stick with it. Once I got started it went by really quickly. I also picked my schools because they were close to my family. I saved a lot of money by living at home while I was in college. I worked and went to school at night. It was really tough at times, but I decided I wasn't going to stop until I finished it, even if I could only take one class at a time. Slow progress is still progress, and all progress is good.



This is the University of Rhode Island where I went to school.

\* Captioned photos help students visualize part of letters like places

I think Harbor College looks awesome - you can go there to get started and then transfer to a University in California to get a bachelor's degree. That is what I did in Rhode Island. You are lucky to be in California because there are a lot of great universities there. My roommate is also from Los Angeles - she went to University of California Los Angeles. I also have a friend that works at University of California Santa Barbara - he is a marine biologist.

\* Making connections to pre-scientist helps strengthen connection

I picked my schools by looking online to see if they had the degree I wanted. I decided to major in biology because it was always my favorite subject in school, and there are lots of different jobs you can do with a biology degree. I didn't know I wanted to do research until I tried it. I worked in a lab during college and really liked it. Many people do things called "internships" and "fellowships" when they are in college where you work in a lab for a few months under a mentor who teaches you how to help. They help you get a job when you graduate because you get experience, and it also helps you figure out what kinds of jobs you like. Many of them are paid.

There are lots of science jobs you can do with plants! There are people that work in greenhouses, taking care of plants and doing experiments. The USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) has offices in California and they



\* Adding images that relate to letter help keep pre-scientist engaged

work with farmers and plants a lot. You might see their label on foods in the grocery store. [This is a link to their website for all the locations on the west coast.](#) They help find new and better ways to grow food, use water efficiently, and help keep plants we eat safe from diseases and bugs.



*Adding clickable link encourages pre-scientist to learn more*

I love the ocean a lot too. I have friends that studied marine biology and work in places where we breed fish, shrimp, oysters, and other seafood to eat (this is called aquaculture). I also have friends that work in aquariums taking care of fish and other



animals. These are all jobs biologists do. If you want to be a scientist or a researcher, you can keep going to college after you finish your bachelor's degree. My favorite ocean explorer (also known as an oceanographer) is Sylvia Earle. There is a movie about her on Netflix called Mission Blue. She discovered a lot about the ocean. This is a picture of her in a mini submarine.



*Add photos from workplace to help pre-scientist visualize workplace and experiment*



This is an aquaculture facility. They grow things like baby scallops and oysters in the short tanks, and algae to feed them in the tall tanks.

That is a great goal. What do you want to spend it on? I made spaghetti for dinner this weekend. How is your family doing? I am excited for your next letter.

Your friend,  
Liz



*Ask pre-scientist questions- showing an interest in wanting to get to know more about them as well*