

Write a Cover Letter

First Paragraph

- ▶ **Mention:**
 - Why you are writing (include which position you are applying for)
 - How you learned of the position
 - Your current status (student or employed)
 - If you have completed your degree or when you expect to graduate
- ▶ **Make a preliminary assertion** as to your strength as a candidate
- ▶ **Tailor** to specific organization/company
- ▶ **Explain** your interest in the company

Middle Paragraph

- ▶ **Present specific examples** of how your background, experience, achievements, and/or qualifications meet the needs of the position description, department, and/or organization
- ▶ **Discuss your knowledge** of and interest in some of the specific characteristics of the job, organization, and/or department
- ▶ **Address if your profile differs** from the job description
- ▶ **Mention why** you decided to pursue that field

Final Paragraph

- ▶ **Offer to provide additional material**, information, or a URL for a professional web page/portfolio (if applicable)
- ▶ **Indicate:**
 - How you can best be reached
 - What is enclosed/attached with the letter
 - Your availability for, and interest in, an interview
 - Follow up action on your part
- ▶ **Thank the reader** for his or her consideration

Keep in mind...

A cover letter is your opportunity to tell the employer what you are applying for and why you are a good match for the position and the organization.

You should submit a cover letter with every resume, whether for an internship or job.

While a resume provides a summary of your skills and experience, a cover letter takes it a step further by allowing you to highlight your specific qualifications.

Structure and Details

- ▶ **Appropriately address the salutation** to a specific person, not job title (spell their name correctly)
- ▶ **Avoid saying "To Whom it May Concern"** if no name is provided. For example, you can use "Dear Hiring Manager" or "Dear Selection Committee"
- ▶ **Check for any spelling or grammar errors**
- ▶ **Use a font type and size that match your resume**
- ▶ **Include contact information** in the letter
- ▶ **Write in the tone of a confident (but not arrogant) professional**
- ▶ **If you are submitting your resume to any email address, your cover letter may be in the body of the email**

Evan Lee
12345 Stanford Avenue
Irvine, CA 92617

March 7, 2013

Karen Packard
Recruiting Manager
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
987 Corporation Drive
Irvine, CA 92602

Dear Ms. Packard:

I would like to join the Enterprise Rent-A-Car team as an Entry-level Management Trainee. After reviewing the job description on Handshake and the Enterprise website, I know this position is an excellent match for my interest in sales and management. I was also excited to learn more about the core values at Enterprise such as service, hard work, community, and fun as these fit with my own work values.

I am a senior majoring in Psychology and Social Behavior at the University of California, Irvine, and look forward to applying my strong communication and leadership skills in a management training program. Last year as a Resident Assistant, I worked on a team of 8 members to foster the academic, social, and cultural programming in the residence hall. We also worked together to help students adjust to college and to provide an enriching residential atmosphere. In this role I was responsible for the well-being of 50 first-year students which helped me develop and refine my management skills. It was through this experience that I became aware of my passion for leadership and teamwork and where I learned the importance of effective interpersonal communication. I will use these skills as a successful Management Trainee at Enterprise.

I would like the opportunity to meet with you and discuss my qualifications in greater detail. I will follow up with you in two weeks to check on the status of my application. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Evan Lee
Evan Lee

Enclosure: Resume

For more help...

Visit the Career Center to have
your cover letter reviewed!