

First Prize, Dear George Washington Contest 2013
Madeline Scanlon, Fifth Grade
Friends Academy

May 30, 1789

Dear George Washington,

My name is Anna Garnwich. I am a widow and I am originally from Germany. I came to America when times were tough in my home country. I have three children and many worries about their future. I hope you can understand my concerns.

Since the Declaration of Independence was signed I feel more free but nonetheless scared. I feel like a new person was born inside of me but another part of me died. I am most worried about my children's education and how the new government will handle education going forward. I am writing this letter to express these worries.

My daughter who is nine years wants to be nurse. I know you care deeply about nursing. My sons are only three and four years old so they don't know what they want be when they grow up. I was not well educated, so I want the best for my children. One of worries is that in the past the education for poor children was very limited and they couldn't go past elementary school. As a woman I know that we were not as educated as the men in the past, so I am hoping for more opportunities for my daughter Susan. I am also worried about my sons Harris and Johnny. While they are too young to know what they want to do, I want them to be well educated so they have many job opportunities.

As the first president of our glorious new country, can you please tell me about your plan for the children who are able to afford private education? I believe that the country should create a public school system for the children and I believe that it will make our country stronger. Do you agree?

Yours respectfully,

Anna Garnwich