Activity 7: Dear Circus Owner... I Should Be in Your Circus!

In Brief: Write/dictate a letter describing why you are best person to hire for your favorite circus job.

Objectives: Write a persuasive letter with personal stories and how they match two circus jobs.

Background: Reflecting on your experiences and talking (or writing) about them can enhance personal development as well as academic skills. This involves several different intelligences beyond purely linguistic, including intrapersonal and interpersonal.

Preparation: Investigate the many different jobs that bring a circus to life.

With/for Your Child: Engage!

Get Ready! Read the letter from the circus owner (below). Review the Brainstorming Packet topic 7.

Step 1. Research circus jobs. Select 3 or 4 jobs that sound interesting. Think about your own interests and abilities. Discuss with friends and family how your interests are best matched to 2 circus jobs.

Step 2. Help child get started writing or dictating a letter to the circus owner listing top 1 and 2 job choices. Describe how child’s interests and abilities are matched with those two job choices. Create draft.


Step 4. Draw a picture of child doing the #1 circus job choice using circus images, colors, clothing, materials and tools, etc.

Step 5. Make your letter so it sounds interesting and persuasive. Use words and phrases from circus jargon. Make your drawing visually exciting with circus images, designs, colors and people. Use a title or speech bubbles for good effect.

- Written language: Word choice, phrases, quotations, etc.

Follow up and Extensions: Time to act! If you like visual arts, drama, acting... this is your chance to make a video recording of your letter to the circus owner. Think about the best way to bring your interests and activities to life. Can you wear a favorite circus costume or prop? Can you use unique circus words or phrases?

Letter from Dogs & Cats Spectacular Circus Owner
Congratulations!

You have been selected to work for the circus for the weekend when it is coming to your community. We have received many more requests than we have available jobs. Please write a letter describing your top two job choices and why you are best suited to do these jobs. Describe your interests, skills, favorite school activities, hobbies, free time activities, favorite books, movies, etc.

Tell us why you want these either of these two jobs and we will do our best to match you to the right job.

We are like a big family at the circus. We spend long days entertaining many people. We all have to do more than one job to make the circus successful. It takes a lot of team work to make sure that The Show Must Go On for three performances everyday.

Remember there is more to the circus than beautiful horses, bright lights, glamorous costumes and funny clowns.

We appreciate your enthusiasm for the circus. With helpful people like you we will truly put on the Greatest Show on Earth!

Below is a list of some of the circus jobs that are important and essential. Let us know which two are of most interest to you. If there is something of interest to you that is not on this list, let us know.

**List of Circus Jobs**

**Visual-spatial**
- Make a poster – program- flier
- Put up the Big Top tent
- Make clown costumes
- Clown face painting
- Design and operate the circus performance lights

**Kinesthetic**
- Put up the Big Top tent
- Clowning around
- Juggling
- Tight rope walking
- Acrobat
- Magician
- Trapeze artist

**Musical**
_ Play in the band
_ Play the calliope
_ Sing
_ Write songs
_ Manage the sound system

**Linguistic**
_ Ringmaster
_ Promotional materials
_ Barker
_ Communicate with community people: email, phone calls, letters

**Naturalist**
_ Care for the animals (feed, sleeping, medications, exercise, etc.)
_ Make sure animals are safely transported via train or trucks
_ Animal training
_ Performing with horses, dogs, elephants, tigers, etc.
_ Make popcorn and snacks

**Logical-mathematical**
_ Ticket sales
_ Banking
_ Payroll
_ Time and record keeping
_ Travel arrangements
_ Operations: setting up tents, stages, etc.
_ Manage community rules

**Interpersonal**
_ Communicate with community people: email, phone calls, letters
_ Ticket seller
_ Barker
_ Promoter
_ Contact local news people: newspaper, TV, radio
_ Manage circus people and daily schedule