**Dear Future Self**

Goals

* Students reflect on experiences in the group
* Students identify progress and achievements during 9th grade
* Students provide encouragement and validation for future selves

Pre-group preparation

* Mentors write short letters to each student, which include encouraging words, reflections on students’ progress, and identifying students’ contributions to the group.

Materials

* Paper
* Pencils, Pens
* Envelopes and stamps
* Student addresses

Activity 1: Students write letters to themselves

* At the last, or close to last, meeting of the group, have participants write a letter to themselves
* Letters can be about what they’ve learned in group, how they feel about the group and/or themselves, and what lessons the want to remember as they progress through high school.
* Student place letters in a stamped and address envelope (leave it unsealed)

Activity 2: Student write letters to one another

* Write each student’s name on the top of a sheet of paper
* Have group members move around the room writing short messages to on every member’s sheet of paper
* Add paper with messages to students’ envelopes (leave it unsealed)

Students should return their envelopes to mentors. Mentors then add the letters they wrote for each student to the envelopes and seal them. Mentors can mail the letters to students at the beginning of the next school year to provide encouragement and motivation to start off the year strong.

Closing/Check Out Question: What will you remember from today’s activities? Is there anything you would like to share regarding how the group as a whole has influenced your first year of high school?