

**Workshop 1: The New Americans****Reading 2 Project: Fitting In**  
**Letter to Irene**

*Irene Rodriguez had a tough time fitting in at school—but she succeeded.*

**Project:** Write a letter to Irene. Explain how your experiences relate to hers. Ask her questions.

**Procedure****1. Brainstorm ideas.**

Irene had lots of challenges fitting in. At first, she couldn't speak English. She wasn't familiar with her new home. But after a while, she found her way. Think about these questions. List ideas about each one.

- Do you think Irene is brave? Strong? Tell her your reaction to her experiences.
- What details about yourself would you like to share with Irene?
- What would you like to ask Irene about her past? What would you like to know about her life today?

**2. Write your letter.**

Use the ideas you brainstormed to begin a draft of your letter to Irene. Here are some suggestions:

- Explain the purpose of your letter. Tell why you are writing to her.
- Remember to begin with a greeting and end with a closing before signing your name.
- Read your letter to a friend and ask for ideas.

**3. Present your work.**

Write your final draft or type your work on the computer.