



Letter to 2026: The 20-Sentence Challenge

briantolentino.com



Sentence 1 – Opening Hook (*Example: The future has been waiting longer than we think.*)

Sentence 2 – Directly Address 2026 (*Example: You feel close enough to touch but far enough to fear.*)

Sentence 3 – Metaphor (*Example: You are a locked door, humming quietly, daring me to knock.*)

Sentence 4 – Simile (*Example: Right now, my life feels like a backpack stuffed too full—heavy, awkward, but necessary.*)

Sentence 5 – Short Sentence (*Example: I'm trying.*)

Sentence 6 – Long Sentence (*Example: I want you to know that in this moment, I am learning how to balance expectations, distractions, and doubt while pretending I'm more confident than I actually feel most days.*)

Sentence 7 – Specific Detail (*Example: I still rush to finish homework late at night, my desk cluttered with half-used notebooks and a water bottle I keep forgetting to refill.*)

Sentence 8 – Rhetorical Question (*Example: Will you finally slow down, or will you keep sprinting past the parts of life that matter?*)

Sentence 9 – Personification (*Example: Time taps its foot impatiently while I try to catch my breath.*)

Sentence 10 – Tone Shift (*Example: This is where the hope fades into honesty.*)

Sentence 11 – Dependent Clause Opener (*Example: Although I joke around and act unfazed, I carry the quiet fear of wasting my potential.*)

Sentence 12 – Imagery (*Example: Some days smell like sharpened pencils and cold air, while others sound like silence after everyone has gone home.*)

Sentence 13 – Intentional Fragment (*Example: So many questions.*)

Sentence 14 – Colon Sentence (*Example: Remember this: growth is uncomfortable before it is impressive.*)

Sentence 15 – Dash for Emphasis (*Example: I need you to be proof—not perfection—that effort turns into something real.*)

Sentence 16 – Repetition (*Example: I hope I'm braver, I hope I'm kinder, I hope I'm still curious.*)

Sentence 17 – Prediction (*Example: By 2026, I think the world will move faster, but I'll understand myself a little better.*)

Sentence 18 – Advice (*Example: Don't forget where you came from, even when it's tempting to erase the awkward parts.*)

Sentence 19 – Reflection (*Example: I hope I've learned to measure success by growth instead of approval.*)

Sentence 20 – Closing Line (*Example: The future has been waiting, and now I'm finally ready to answer.*)