

Quote: The only way to have a friend is to be a friend.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson, American writer and philosopher

**Step 1:** Write an occasion/position or simple topic sentence.

**Step 2:** Insert quote AND identify author.

**Step 3:** Write body sentences.

Option 2: Give examples of 2-3 things the quote could mean.

**Step 4:** Write a clincher that...

- explains the lesson, moral or significance
- discusses short or long term consequences
- gives a call for action

Anyone wanting a life of happiness must fill it with friends. And as Ralph Waldo Emerson knew, “The only way to have a friend is to be a friend.” It’s easy to accept friendship when one is down. When my husband died, my neighbors rallied together to provide for my family. Sumptuous meals magically appeared on our table, with warm, mouth-enticing vapors still spiraling upwards. Exhausted from dealing with the decisions we had to make, my daughters, their husbands, and I gratefully sat down to enjoy the delicious gifts of friendships. A few months later when one of my neighbor’s sons sustained a severe head injury after his car was broad-sided crossing an intersection, my time came to be the friend. Though I had welcomed the meals I had received, too many had featured lasagna, so to be a true friend, I dug out my trusty crock pot and prepared the Jones’ family secret recipe for French dip sandwiches, a meal I was sure the teenagers would all appreciate, and they did. Two days later I received a phone call requesting that I make it again and asking if this time I could include the recipe. Throughout the years my neighborhood’s kindnesses have blanketed all of us with comfort during the hard times and strengthened the fabric of our friendship—from the freshly shoveled driveways that greet our return after a long day at work, to progressive dinners that enliven Thanksgiving, to the prankster plantings of pink flamingos among the Christmas decorations. Friendship is a give and take, a ying to another’s yang, a exchange from one person’s heart to another’s soul. Friendship is life itself.