

This draft letter was to be used as a character reference and as a plea for leniency in a court case. It was sent to The Other Writer with a request that he proof-read it and '*tidy it up*' but without losing the 'personal' feeling or making it appear that it was professionally written.

**THIS IS THE VERSION THAT ARRIVED ON THE OTHER WRITER'S DESK:  
READ IT AND THEN SEE HOW THE OTHER WRITER PRODUCES A NEW VERSION:**

I am Bill's older cousin Dave.

I'm sad to hear that my cousin has been foolish enough to of felt the need to drive this car, twenty years ago or so it may not have been such a shock as he had the misfortune of growing up impressionable with some undesirable classroom associates. As far as in our family life at the time I think he felt worthless and could do no right, picked on and unloved.

Since he left school I think he then realised the reasons why he felt singled out and pretty soon he was working and he was dating Sherry, his wife today. Now having four lovely children of his own Bill has found his worth in life. He's turned out to be a very loyal person, to his position in his family and to his work.

Bill cycles to his place of work as it is only about a mile or so from his home, he seems to be a very punctual person and apparently a credit to his work colleges.

Bill usually keeps his feelings to himself but he and I seem to be able, on rare occasions to talk on a personal level. He has been stuck in a rut with his work and in his general life for what seems to be ages, doing the same mundane things week in week out, not doing too well financially, his work about to end and not seeing any sort of light at the end of the tunnel. I feel, for a temporary escape from reality he sort to drive the car.

Since getting him to open up to me and now realising the seriousness of the foolish way of thinking, I can safely promise you he feels so full of remorse and that he's destroyed his self respect. He sincerely vows never to put himself or his family through this again.

I have asked him to assist me in running my business, now pending this outcome, it'll be a challenge that I think he would benefit and I can arrange transport for him. It'll be hard work and it will give me a chance to do the cousinly thing and get him back to his former self.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that Bill has psychologically struggled so hard to go forward in life that I fear that imprisonment would honestly set him right back where he started and it would total destroy him and his family for sure and I know he has learnt his lesson and wont even attempt to do this again

Yours sincerely

**This is how The Other Writer re-wrote the letter. Keeping the sense and meaning but without destroying the heartfelt message and the personality at its core.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am Bill's cousin Dave.

I'm sad to hear that my cousin has been foolish enough to have driven his car.

It may not have been such a surprise twenty years ago, when he had the misfortune of coming under the influence of some undesirable classroom associates. At that time I think he felt worthless and that he could do no right. He was picked on and unloved.

When he left school, he sorted himself out and pretty soon he was working and he was dating Sherry - now his wife.

Now, having four lovely children of his own, Bill has found his worth in life. He's turned out to be a very loyal person to his family and in his job.

Bill cycles to his place of work, as it is only about a mile or so from his home. He seems to be a very punctual person and he is apparently a credit to his work colleagues.

Bill usually keeps his feelings to himself but he and I seem to be able, on rare occasions, to talk. He has told me that he has been stuck in a rut in his day to day life for ages, doing the same mundane things week in, week out and not doing

too well financially. Now his work is about to end and he cannot see any sort of light at the end of the tunnel.

I feel this led to him driving his car - as a temporary escape from reality.

Since getting him to open up to me, he now realises the seriousness of what he has done. I can promise you that he feels full of remorse, especially as he feels that he's destroyed his self respect.

He sincerely vows never to put himself or his family through this again.

I have asked him to assist me in running my business, pending the outcome of his case. It'll be a challenge that I think he would benefit from.

I can arrange transport for him to and from my shop. He will have to work hard and it will give me a chance to do the right thing and get him back to his former self.

I suppose that what I'm trying to say, is that Bill has struggled so hard to go forward in life, that I fear that imprisonment would set him back to where he started and it would totally destroy him and his family.

I know he has learnt his lesson and he won't ever attempt to do this again

Yours faithfully