

# A Friendly Letter Model for your Overhead Projector

Heading:

1456 Cubism Courtyard

Paris, France 93705

June 19, 1946

Salutation:

Dear Mr. Matisse,

Body:

I understand that you were born on New Years Eve, but please don't wait until this New Years Eve to resolve to paint your house in a way that doesn't offend your neighbors. To be blunt, your use of wild color hurts my retinas. I began training to be a painter when I was very young, sir, and I understand that you waited until age twenty-one to first start, and I certainly don't wish to come across as a know-it-all based on this difference, but if you believe your house to be well-decorated, then perhaps you should return to the life of a lawyer and hire me to paint your home properly. I'll warn you that I am expensive. I am the rest of our neighbors, however, would appreciate you fronting this expense.

In addition to the loud and unnatural colors you've chosen, you seem to over-rely on the use of patterns in your attempt to decorate your house. While I can see why patterns feel safe and give you easy choices when filling in your backgrounds, surely you must see how they make your art predictable and repetitive. Why not surprise those who look at your art? Put an eyeball underneath that figure's nose? And those soft edges between your subjects and their backgrounds show a reluctance to be bold. Have you seen my house? No one can say that my shapes aren't bold, and in this neighborhood, being bold is how you get respected and how you get your paintings sold. I hope you'll take my advice to heart and change styles or consider hiring me to paint your home.

Closing:

Sincerely,

Signature:

*Pablo Picasso, your neighbor*