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One of the most effective writing styles, particularly novels, is letter format. Alice Walker explores this through her epistolary novel *The Color Purple*. By reading the novel, the reader notices the success of its epistolary use by realizing the integrity and affection between the writer, narrator, and readers. Even though Celie – the narrator – has no control over her life for much of the novel, she is still the one who controls the narrative (Walker, Letter 1-90). This epistolary style involves a personal touch of the writer, giving it more credibility (Bower 139). The advantages of letter writing format technique are portrayed as essential in *The Color Purple*.

First, the technique allows the reader to follow all proceedings in the novel. Celie's way of fighting against the oppression in her life is through writing letters. Using the epistolary technique allows the reader to see all that happens throughout the novel through Celie's point of view, thereby strengthening the connection between the narrator and the reader (Bower, 139). It also allowed Walker to tell the story just like Celie would have, with her own words and accent, offering her a more genuine voice.

Additionally, the letter-writing technique improves credibility since it represents firsthand information. "The Color Purple" contains letters from two sisters, Celie and Nettie, about their lives in Georgia in the 1930s (Walker, Letter 1-90). Celie narrates perspective on her life in the rural South of America, and Nettie tells about her experiences in Africa. The reader can relate with the two characters, Celie and Nettie. The reader can empathize and sympathize with

tragedies that both characters undergo through their narration using a letter formatting (Bower, 139-140)

In conclusion, letter writing technique is an essential approach to writing novels, as portrayed in *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker. First, the method allows the reader to follow in the process of writing as well as those of the characters and narrators. Also, letter writing formatting in novels improves the credibility of the characters, thereby allowing the reader to empathize with the proceedings.

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Works Cited

Bower, Rachel. "The Limits of the Letter: Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* (1982)." *Epistolarity and World Literature, 1980-2010*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham, 2017. 137-166.

Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*. Open Road Integrated Media, 2012.

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