Sarah Johnson 123 College Ave Boston, MA 02115

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Mom & Dad 456 Oak Street Springfield, IL 62701

Dear Mom and Dad,

Hope you're both doing well! I figured it was time for an actual letter instead of my usual rapid-fire texts.

School's been good – really good, actually. My economics professor is this guy who worked on Wall Street for 20 years before teaching, and his stories are wild. Makes the textbook stuff way more interesting. Now I get why Dad always reads the business section first.

I joined the hiking club here, which has been awesome. We went to White Mountain last weekend and I remembered all those camping trips we used to take. Turns out all that "character building" actually taught me useful stuff – I was the only one who knew how to properly pack a backpack.

The food here is... well, it's college food. I've been experimenting with cooking in the dorm kitchen, though. Tried to make your meatloaf recipe, Mom, but I think I missed a step somewhere. It was edible, but barely. My roommate said it looked like a science experiment.

Boston's been fun to explore. Found this bookstore in the North End that reminds me of that place we used to go to when I was little – you know, the one with the creaky floors and the cat that sat on the counter. Different city, same vibe.

Classes wrap up in three weeks, then I'll be home for winter break. Fair warning: I'm bringing a mountain of laundry and I plan to raid the pantry.

Talk soon,

Sarah

P.S. Dad, I finally understand why you always complained about my music being too loud. My neighbor plays his at all hours. Karma, I guess.