Assignment: Letters from Marco to his wife and children

1. Dear Maria,...

- Explain how much you are missing your wife and children, and hope they are well.
  (Remember that your eldest child was ill when you left home)
- Explain that you have arrived safely in America, remembering how you got there and who helped you.
- Say you wish you could be with them but explain why you have had to leave Italy and why you cannot return for several years.

2. Talk about your arrival in America, your first impressions of New York and Eddie Carbone’s home.

- What did you think of your cousin Beatrice, her husband Eddie and their niece, Catherine?
- How have you settled in and how are you earning money? How much are you planning to send home?
- Talk about Rodolpho. Explain how popular he is with the other men and say why.

3. Explain about Rodolpho and Catherine’s relationship.

- Say how you feel about it and the reactions of Beatrice and Eddie to their engagement.
- Describe the tension in the apartment and give your opinion of why Eddie is acting the way he is. Give some examples of Eddie’s strange behaviour. (Things he says and his obvious dislike of Rodolpho)

4. Last night it all came to a head...

Describe the incident at the end of Act 1. What happened and why?

a) Eddie suggests that Rodolpho is ‘not a real man’
b) He gets Rodolpho to box
c) You retaliate

5. End by saying that you are hoping that one day your wife will be able to come to visit America, describe the process she will have to go through at Ellis Island if she comes into the country legally.

Remember to describe events from Marco’s point of view.
Try to imagine how he feels.
Assignment - Marco’s second letter.

1. Dear Maria,...
   - Explain that this will be your final letter from America and that you won’t be able to send any more money.
   - Sadly, you will soon be home and pray that your family will be there to greet you.
   - Give your opinion of the American law.

2. Explain that things have gone terribly wrong for you and say who is to blame.
   - Say that shortly after your last letter, Eddie’s strange relationship with Catherine started to cause problems; especially when he came home drunk and found Rodolpho and Catherine alone in the bedroom.
   - Describe what happened next and why you were moved to another apartment upstairs.

3. Give details ..
   - about the humiliation of being taken away by the Immigration people and how it was obvious that Eddie was the one who had informed.
   - Explain how Eddie’s actions have gone against the ‘Italian law’ and what you did to him to show your contempt. What do you feel is the only way that justice can be done now?

4. As I write this letter ..
   - Say that as you are writing this letter, Rodolpho is preparing to marry Catherine and will become an American citizen. However, you are to be deported - but how can you return to Italy with honour if Eddie is still alive?
   - Explain what you plan to do and why. How is the American law different to the Italian code of honour? What would have happened to Eddie if he had been in Italy?

5. Finally ..
   - explain that you are out on bail as you have given your word to your lawyer that you will not touch Eddie, but that now you are going to church to pray.

6. Say how bad you feel that all of your hopes and dreams for your family have been shattered.
   - Ask your wife to pray for you and say that you will see her soon.

Remember to write from Marco’s point of view and try to explain how he feels.