

Dear Scholarship Committee,

Oct 11, 2002

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for my former student, Lisa Kirkpatrick. Lisa was a member of my Spring 2001 English 22 class, and she earned an A in my class for her work. In order to illustrate the academic dedication, enthusiasm, and ability she has demonstrated, I would like to describe for you a few of the projects she completed.

Lisa chose to take English 22 on the "native speaker" track instead of the ESOL track. I have found that only the most ambitious students who speak English as a second language take this option – they do it because they want to write English in a more complex context, and because they understand that writing is more than the study of grammar and vocabulary. Lisa had to work twice as hard as one of my native speaker students, and her work was often twice as good.

In her first essay, a review of the café where she and her husband go to read and talk, she met with me three different times to go over the grammar of her early drafts, and then to revise the final essay. She included colorful description, complex sentence structures, and even incorporated research about the café's history. She continued working on the project until it was an A essay.

In her second essay, she wrote about growing up with her grandmother, who cared for her after the death of her parents. (In addition, the essay described her family's experiences under Communism, reminding me that Lisa has lived a complex and interesting life.) What stood out about the narrative, however, was not the insights into her personal or national history, but the clear description of the ethos of education which Lisa gained from her grandmother. I do not have the essay in front of me as I write, but from my memory, the grandmother taught Lisa to continue her education, to work hard, and also to be a joyful person.

Lisa's unflagging enthusiasm for English class was a wonderful thing. She completed every single homework assignment, some of them twice until she got them right. She worked very hard in a group project, and helped her group to come up with an idea, even when they got "stuck" on the project. She is an incredibly studious and dedicated person, but at the same time she is bursting with happiness. Each class, she is on time, smiling, with a sincere "good morning!"

As a last note relevant to Lisa's goal of working in the Sales and Marketing area of the hospitality industry, I will mention her final writing portfolio. Students were asked to submit all their revised writing at the end of the semester. Lisa was the only student in all my classes to take care in the presentation of her work, with a professional binding and section dividers which she designed. The effect of the portfolio presentation was simple and elegant, yet showed how much she cared about her work.

I wholeheartedly recommend Lisa to receive scholarship assistance to continue her education. Since she has demonstrated that she will not rest until her work is top-notch, she is sure to complete her college classes and succeed in her career goals.

Sincerely,



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