

October 2, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to recommend ██████████ for undergraduate study in public policy and Foreign Affairs. ██████████ was a student in my TOEFL reading and writing test preparation course, where she was one of my top students. She consistently impressed me not only with her insight and intelligence, but also with her rigorous study habits and kindhearted personality.

In my two and a half years of teaching reading and writing to adults, ██████████ was perhaps the deepest thinker of any of my students. In fact, at first she struggled with the timed, formulaic essays required of standardized testing, as she always had extremely perceptive and nuanced ideas that she was reluctant to compromise or oversimplify. She has passionate, informed opinions, a facility for drawing connections between ideas, and an eloquent discursive style. I should, of course, point out, that despite being naturally resistant to a paint-by-numbers prose, ██████████ then worked with an assiduousness I have rarely seen to improve at this particular form of writing and argument, which she ultimately learned to wield to express her ideas in all their original complexity. In this way, I think she strikes a welcome balance by channeling her born creativity and perspicacity through a formidable work ethic.

For all her seriousness as a student, ██████████ also has an exceptionally personable and generous personality. In a classroom where many students are shy, ██████████ was always happy to participate, offering valuable contributions to the classroom. She kept the classroom lively, and frequently aided and inspired students who struggled with the material. Her compassion for others is manifest in all of her pursuits, from the way she treats others in daily life to her drive to effect social change on a global scale.

As I learned more about ██████████ academic background and aspirations, her exceptional talent and accomplishment became clear to me. I believe she will personally grow and thrive through this coursework as well as enrich the experience of her peers and better the learning environment of the program overall. She has my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

Allyson Paty