To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you in support of Sarah Baumgartner’s application for admission to your institution. I have now taught Sarah twice: first in her First-Year Composition course, and again currently in Introduction to British Literature, at the Ohio State University at Lima. Sarah took both of these courses as a high school student, and I found her to be an exemplary student. Sarah is intelligent, hard-working, creative, and dedicated to her pursuits. If I could achieve a classroom full of Sarah Baumgartners, then I would be a very happy faculty member.

Sarah’s intelligence speaks for itself: she has exemplary grades in both her high school and her post-secondary work at OSU-Lima. In my classes, I was always impressed with the depth and maturity of thought that Sarah displayed. She is able to conceptually grasp ideas more quickly than her older and more experienced peers, and she absorbs and internalizes subject matter in ways that are quite remarkable for a high school student. Her papers all received high marks, and she completed her work very thoroughly. Most importantly, she conducts herself in class with poise and respect, no outside observer would guess that she is still in high school. It is no surprise to me that she has been her class president, and president of a student club, all through her high school career.

At this early stage, I know Sarah wants to pursue a double-major in Communications and English. Her skill sets in both of those disciplines are already well-developed, and I am sure they continue to develop rapidly. In Composition, she wrote a very strong critical essay on the sexualization of cosplay subcultures. I was impressed by her reasoned argumentative skills, the depth of her analytical thought, and by her mature handling of the subject matter – many students would have shied away from this topic as being potentially “awkward.” Sarah’s research skills are also impressive: in a persuasive paper on the use of narrative in marketing, Sarah sought out specialist materials in the field which were written for academic specialists. Despite not having the level of knowledge to make these readings “easy,” Sarah worked with them, expanding her knowledge in the field and effectively synthesizing the information for her own purposes. Her ambition to learn more, and to not settle for the easy answer was strongly displayed in this research paper.

In the classroom, Sarah is an excellent collaborator. She always completes her readings thoroughly and is prepared to discuss the readings with insightful comments in class. She has also demonstrated her ability as a peer collaborator in small-group work and essay peer review. While many students her age may be intimidated working with older peers, Sarah dedicated herself to being a committed and constructively critical partner. Her fellow students always respect her views, and many wanted to work with her on individual peer review in group work. In that regard, she is most definitely a capable, thoughtful, and dedicated leader in classroom collaboration.

Again, I wholly endorse Sarah’s application to your institution. I have every confidence that she will continue to be the model student and model citizen that she has already developed into. If you would like any further information, or have any questions regarding Sarah as a student, please do not hesitate to contact me at the information listed below.

Sincerely,

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