

## LETTERS BY STUDENTS

**The following letters were written specifically for the purpose of supporting my nomination for the Outstanding Teaching Award.**

September 18th, 2023

To whomever it may concern,

My name is Morgan Calla and am a sophomore here at the university. I had the privilege of being a student in Amrita's EN 102 class last spring at The University of Alabama. I must begin by emphasizing that Amrita is undeniably one of the most compassionate professors I've had the pleasure of encountering during my time at the university. Attending her class was a genuine delight, as she consistently went above and beyond to engage her students. Her lectures were not just informative but also highly entertaining, often accompanied by engaging activities that made the learning process enjoyable. It's safe to say that there was never a dull moment in Amrita's class.

One particular memory that continues to resonate with me is related to my research paper. I had selected a controversial topic, and I admit I was quite nervous about presenting my ideas. However, from the very moment I shared my topic with Amrita, she offered unwavering support and comfort. Her encouragement began at the inception of my research and continued steadfastly until the completion of my project. This support held a special significance for me, as the topic was something I held a deep personal connection to. Being a part of Amrita's EN 102 class brought me immense joy, and I genuinely appreciate the positive impact she had on my academic journey.

Sincerely,

Morgan Calla  
(EN102-125)

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My name is Sydney Pearson, I am a sophomore from Austin, TX. I was a student in Ms. Amrita Bakshi's EN102 class last semester. Although this class was at 8am, I never wanted to miss a day. Ms. Bakshi was extremely attentive and excited to teach. She made the class atmosphere better than any other class I've ever taken. I will never forget the first day I walked into class, every student looked like they had just rolled out of bed and couldn't open their eyes. It was early and no one was comfortable enough to even introduce themselves. Ms. Bakshi then came up with fun "get to know me" activities that got the students engaged and smiling. By the last day of the semester, the entire class had known everyone's names and even things about each other. Instead of solo projects we as a class chose to work with our peers in group projects. Ms. Bakshi made every student feel seen and heard. She was always able to answer our questions. She made long reading assignments fun and explained each assignment in full detail. I was never confused in her class, and for me that is unusual. I learned so many valuable skills that will help me in my future professional life. She taught me how to write for different scenarios, in different forms, and how to write with proper punctuation and grammar. I can confidently say that I am proud of my writing since taking Ms. Bakshi's EN102 class. For it being her first year of teaching, I would have guessed she had been teaching for at least 5 years. I could go on and on about how this course and Ms. Bakshi changed my college life and my transition to Alabama. I am forever grateful for the friendships I made in this class, including my student-teacher relationship with Ms. Bakshi.

Sydney Pearson  
(EN102-107)

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I was so blessed to have Amrita as my EN101 and EN102 teacher. During the beginning of each class, she would take time to ask us how our week were going; what was going well, and what was challenging for us. She made it very clear through this that she not only cared about our work and success in her class, but also about us as people and not just students. I've found that teachers who create relationships with their students can get them more involved in class and therefore create a better learning environment. I met some good friends in my EN101 and EN102 class, because Amrita would give us partner or group work and assign us to a person in the class that we had never interacted with before. She understands how important meeting new people and building a network is, especially since most people in her classes are in their first 2 semesters of college and may not know many people yet.

Another thing that really stuck with me from Amrita's class was that she was always ready and willing to help. Any email I sent to her was responded to in less than 10 minutes and if further help was needed, she never hesitated to set up a zoom call. She would have one on one conferences with us over every single one of our essays and discuss what we needed help on, what to change, to improve, and always compliment what she enjoyed about our writings. Amrita has been one of the best instructors I've had because of her unique teaching style, dedication to her students, and her never ending love for learning.

Taylor Robinson  
(EN101-112, EN102-125)

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**Excerpts from Students' Reflection Assignments (these are not letters written in support of my nomination but were a part of the students' coursework for EN102):**

Kayvis Wright

5/3/2023

EN102-107

Reflection Letter

"I have learned a lot this semester in your class. From writing a 1000-word essay to citing website to showing support to the essay we're writing you have showed us a lot in the matter of these few months and I'm glad and thankful that we had a professor that cares as much as you do. You were very nice and calm and patient with us, and it seems as if you had no problem with it. You also gave us amazing tips about how to use the library website properly which is something that I didn't even know that could be so useful. I was a snuggle at first because we had to write 1000 words essay, then we had to cite websites to support the essay and I was like, man this gonna be a hard class! But once you explained to us how to do it and where to find everything it became so much simpler. I like how you got the class involved everyday like in the peer review and group work. Come to think about it, you actually took time out to learn everyone's name and pronounce it correctly, like you have real pride and patience for your job. And I commend you also for being a student here yourself and teaching at the same time. I just want to thank you for a great semester and helping me catch up on a few things too. you really surprised me this year, professor. I'm glad we actually have such good teachers here. Please never change your style of teaching."

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Kristopher Haygood

5/1/2023

EN102-107

Reflection Letter

“I have learned and evolved a mass amount in my writing capability, research skills, and organization practices since the first day of class. My teacher was also an excellent resource and reliable outlet. I remember while writing the research paper, I had attended my conference with her to go over the things I needed to fix about my paper. But I had just woken up 3 minutes before the conference, so I forgot everything that was said in the conference as soon as I left it. Once I had slept for 4 more hours and fully woken up, I realized I didn’t know what to fix on my paper. I became stressed and worried and was too ashamed of myself to ask her. Then, one day as I was coming from my math class which I take on a different day I take English, and I coincidentally ran into her. It looked as if she was headed to somewhere and was in a hurry, so I did not want to be a burden. But as we both crossed the street heading towards each other, I couldn’t help but to stop her in the middle of the road and ask her what we went over in the conference. We eventually made our way across the street, and she explained to me everything I needed to fix in my paper. It showed just how understanding she is; she was willing to reexplain to me something we had already gone over outside of class hours and while busy tending to her own priorities. Her act of benevolence was very impactful and greatly appreciated.”