

Letter of Recommendation for Ryan Furlong

To Whom It May Concern

I am excited to recommend Ryan Furlong for the Outstanding Teacher Award. I had the pleasure of attending Ryan's Interpretation of Literature course in Fall 2017 at the University of Iowa. For several reasons that I will detail in the paragraphs to follow, I personally found Ryan to be one of the most influential instructors I have ever had the opportunity to learn from.

Ryan held every piece of work submitted to an immense level of scrutiny. Just as he expected our work to be of high quality, he gave great attention to detail in the critiques and analysis that he wrote in response. I personally was devastated when I received my first essay back from Ryan and saw it had been riddled with red pen and a "B" was written at the top. However, not only had Ryan marked the portions that needed work, but he had written detailed line-by-line recommendations for my writing that needed help. Most instructors simply do not have the time for this level of evaluation. Ryan clearly makes the time.

Next, Ryan made himself more available than any other instructor I had previously. At one point, I contacted Ryan via email to alert him that I planned on visiting for extra help during office hours. Since he had many students planning on visiting, he recommended that I come in during a different time. He was extremely accommodating to work around my schedule and made sure I could receive the help I needed. Ryan commits to helping his students in class, in office hours, or whenever they need it.

Lastly, Ryan has an ability to explain and analyze text in a way that is easy to understand for students in a general education class. Being a Marine veteran who has struggled to reintegrate to the civilian world after the military, I can say reading Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried* was a godsend for me. The book explained many postwar emotions that I had never been able to put into words before. Ryan took those experiences and drew the connection between that and many of the characters' actions. His interpretations helped me heal personally, which made Ryan a more influential teacher than I could possibly articulate. For all these reasons, I wholeheartedly believe that Ryan should receive the Outstanding Teacher Award.

Respectfully,



Andrew Osborn

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