

Dear Mr. Furlong,

I just wanted to take some time to express how much I enjoyed being in your class this semester. To be honest, I dreaded the idea of taking a literature class, and that's why I took it in my last semester in college. The course materials were challenging for me. The close readings took me a lot of time as I really had to think hard about what to annotate and analyze. Initially, I felt very intimidated by both the coursework and the impressive comments that my classmates offered every time during the lesson.

Thankfully, throughout the course of the semester, I gradually began to enjoy closely interpreting literary works and feel more comfortable speaking up (especially in my small "trio" group) thanks to your individual support and superb teaching. I definitely did crack my brains when I wrote essays, but felt a huge sense of accomplishment when I finished them. I, at one time, thought coming up with a 7-page essay for a poem would be impossible, but it turns out to be wrong if I do my close readings and think in terms of approaching literature the "Mr. Furlong Way."

Lastly, I really appreciate the amount of time and effort you put into grading our papers, giving us constructive feedback, and meeting up 1-on-1 to discuss my writing issues so that I could improve on my areas for improvement. You are one of the most passionate teachers that I have encountered in the 4 years of my college education at The University of Iowa. We all can definitely tell how much you love teaching literature and bringing us to love it, too. Your passion for literature just inspires me naturally to love whatever I might pursue in the future! Thank you Ryan!

Best,

[Name Omitted, International Student, ESL]