

To Whom It May Concern:

Megan was my mentor when I was beginning to teach for the Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies Department. As such, I spent a considerable amount of time observing her teaching. Megan was a great teacher. It was amazing how much her students responded to her teaching style. For one thing, her students always seemed to enjoy her class. Further, I noticed that she was a source of inspiration as well as a teacher. What I mean by this is that whenever a student came across a problem, she always led them in the right direction without simply telling them the answer. To me, that is invaluable because students always learn better whenever they are able to find answers for themselves. Also by that I mean that her classes added inspiration. Because the topics in a first-year writing course are sometimes difficult and contentious, a teacher must be able to get the students to express ideas and learn how to discuss others' ideas as well and add those insights into their writing. So, by inspiring, I mean that she was able to get the class to see other points of view, to deal with contentious ideas, and move their minds beyond in order to let them grow. These insights then made their ways into their writing, which I had a few occasions to read.

More importantly, to me at least, was how she taught in the capacity as a mentor. She was a wonderful mentor for my first time teaching, which was quite a scary time. She was always there to help with anything I needed, while also juggling two kids, classes, and teaching. I feel that she is one of the main reasons that my first year teaching was such a success and I did not feel absolutely terrified when I walked into the classroom. As for how she was helpful, she had many meetings with the mentor group in which we discussed problems we were having and how to fix them. Further, any time that I did not really know how to go about teaching a subject, she was always there to guide me with exercises and readings to help my students. Also, I think one of the best ways that she taught was that she encouraged us to follow our own interests in teaching the first-year writing courses. She helped us develop our own syllabi so that we could make the class our own and thus feel more comfortable in teaching our classes, as opposed to handing us a syllabus and telling us to follow it. Much like the inspiration mentioned above, she used this inspiration to help us grow as educators; to show us that we did know how to be effective in the classroom, even if we were nervous. I can honestly say that I believe that Megan's teaching, in the classroom and as a mentor, are top-notch. Not only was she an anchor in the treacherous sea that is teaching, but a propellor that kept me moving forward. Further, her classes were always amazing to watch. I cannot think of another person who deserves to have their teaching recognized.

Best,

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