

To Whom It May Concern,

Ellen Cecil-Lemkin has been my instructor twice during my time at Florida State University – the first time for Research, Genre, and Context (ENC 2135) and the second time for Peer Tutoring in the Reading-Writing Center and Digital Studio (ENC 3493). As a reserved freshman who had only been in lecture-based classes containing fifty or more students, I was a bit wary of the intimate English class environment and the discussion it would require of me. Luckily, Ellen was very kind from the start and made everyone in the class feel comfortable. Her use of attendance questions was like including small ice-breakers at the beginning of every class, allowing us to get to know one another a bit better. This would prove even more beneficial when Ellen has us form the groups that we'd be in for the rest of the semester.

I enjoyed Ellen's class and teaching style so much that when I saw she would be the instructor for the ENC 3493 class two years later, I immediately enrolled. Although I knew nothing about tutoring writing, I felt confident that Ellen would provide me with the valuable knowledge and advice to successfully tutor peers in the writing center at FSU. Once again, I was happy to see that Ellen's use of attendance questions and facilitation of groupwork were still present. Since the course was upper-level, Ellen also did a great job of incorporating what we as students wanted from the course into her lectures – meaning that she brought in multiple presenters, let us choose topics of interest which she would then cover in class, and allowed us ample time to discuss what we'd experienced in the writing center and how we could act in future situations.

Some of Ellen's most notable strengths are her attention to detail and ability to clearly define what she wants from her students. Her syllabi are always incredibly descriptive – I never felt that I didn't know what she expected from us and was always able to look at the syllabus or assignment rubric to see how I could submit good work. This detail is also seen in her feedback, which was also always in-depth. As a student, one of the most frustrating things I've encountered is a lack of feedback when I've had points deducted from my assignments. With Ellen, that was never once a problem and I always appreciated her kind words of encouragement and constructive criticism.

On a more personal note, Ellen was the first instructor I ever had in college who really took time out of her busy schedule to talk with me about my experiences as a student and writer. She saw value in my work and reached out to me, helping me revise a paper for award submission. She is also the reason I was lucky enough to intern with the Museum of Everyday Writing, an organization at FSU she told me about and recommended I apply to work for. Though my time at Florida State is coming to its end, I feel confident that my many positive experiences in Ellen's classes will continue to impact my future endeavors. I'm so grateful to have established a connection with Ellen and know that she will certainly continue to help and inspire students in the future.

Sincerely,

Margaret Bell