

## Recommendation for Edward J. Kozaczka

To Whom It May Concern:

I highly recommend Edward J. Kozaczka for teaching. Ed is an intelligent, responsible, creative, and motivated student who engages in research and teaching with equal gusto and excels at both. He shows promise to be a skilled teacher of writing, and he appears equally comfortable reading and discussing literature, especially eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British prose.

Ed has been a student in two of my classes, Advanced Writing for English Majors and Composition Theory and Practice. In both, he has shown a remarkable grasp of complex material, which suggests his intelligence and willingness to work with a text until he gets it. In Advanced Composition, he has stretched his analytical and writing skills by treating dance performances as rhetorical acts. His work is fascinating and important, and it also demonstrates his ability to draw upon his minor in anthropology. In Composition Theory, Ed has shown his ability to comprehend the meaning of difficult texts and translate them in ways that has immediate ramifications for his approach to teaching. Ed's skills in guiding a class are prodigious as well. Over the course of the semester, I ask students in Comp Theory to lead class, figuring that, as future teachers, they need practice. When his turn came, Ed's presentation blew me away. He read three essays on teaching writing from Peter Elbow, Donald Murray, and Lad Tobin, designed an exercise to introduce students to the ideas, and then led discussion for the remaining forty-five minutes of class. His composure, ability to keep the discussion focused, and talent for drawing connections across the essays was superb and resulted in a very effective class. His performance confirmed what I suspected: Ed's a born teacher.

In classes and other contexts, Ed has received much constructive criticism from me; in fact, he seeks it out, continuously looking for ways to improve his writing and thinking. This is important to note, because two of Ed's essays have been nominated to our departmental essay contest, but rather than resting on his laurels, Ed continues to work hard to learn and improve. He is also stretching himself by engaging with the discipline professionally, having sent proposals to several conferences (no word yet, though his proposals were solid).

Ed is involved in the profession in other ways. Inspired by his time volunteering at a local high school, Ed has taken on the monumental task of creating a Writing Center for that school, in which MU students tutor high school students. His vision and work has been met with accolades from professors in English and Education and from administrators alike, and the project has moved along nicely. I must add that, at Ed's request, I agreed to act as the MU contact for this project, but I made it clear that he was to do the bulk of the work. He has performed admirably in all respects, and MU students have been tutoring successfully at the high school.

Ed will be a valuable addition to your teaching pool. He is a serious student that has the intelligence and skills to succeed in anything he puts his mind to. More importantly, he knows how to use his intelligence to grow and refine his teaching skills. As shown in his work on establishing the Writing Center, Ed has the ability to see an opportunity and envision ways to take advantage of it that are beneficial for all concerned. I highly recommend Ed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 570-662-4592 or [jguignar@mansfield.edu](mailto:jguignar@mansfield.edu).

Sincerely,

Dr. James Guignard  
Professor and Chair  
Department of English & Modern Languages  
Mansfield University of Pennsylvania