

Creating Your Brag Sheet

In-Class Activity

Why This Matters

By the end of this mentorship program, you may want to ask your mentor to write you a recommendation letter for a scholarship, internship, or job.

→ What do you want them to say about you?

→ How can your **E-IDP practice plans** give them the concrete examples they would need to write you an effective letter of recommendation?

Today's activity helps you connect your **E-IDP characteristics** and **practice plans** into a draft "brag sheet" you could use when asking for a recommendation letter.

Step 1: Warm-Up (5 minutes)

Revisit the **three entrepreneurial characteristics** you chose earlier this semester.

For each, write down the practice plan you wrote.

Characteristic	My Practice Plan (from earlier exercise)
1.	
2.	
3.	

Step 2: Translate Into Strengths (5 minutes)

Rewrite each characteristic as if someone else were recommending you.

(Use *third person*: "She demonstrates..." / "He consistently...")

Characteristic	Strength Statement (Recommendation Style)
1.	
2.	
3.	

Step 3: Build a Letter Outline (10 minutes)

Most recommendation letters follow this structure:

1. **Introduction** – Who you are and purpose of the letter.
2. **Context** – Relationship or role that gives credibility.
3. **Body Paragraphs** – Each highlights a strength (with examples).
4. **Closing** – Strong recommendation and future potential.

Task:

- Write a 1–2 sentence **intro** and **closing**.
- Use your strength statements + practice plans as your **body paragraphs**.

Sentence Starters:

- *It is my pleasure to recommend [Your Name] for...*
- *Three strengths that distinctly characterize [Your Name] are...*
- *One example of [Characteristic] is...*
- *With that, I enthusiastically recommend [Your Name] for...*

Step 4: Reflection & Pair Share (10 minutes)

Work with a partner:

1. Share the strength statements you wrote about yourself.
2. Give feedback:
 - Which characteristic came across most clearly?
 - Which one could use a stronger example?
3. Write down one idea from your partner you want to add to your own brag sheet.

Step 5: Wrap-Up (5 minutes)

Think ahead: if you asked your mentor for a letter at the end of the semester,

- What would you want them to highlight?
- How will you show evidence of your characteristics so they can?

(Write 2–3 bullet points as an action reminder for yourself.)

Recall: Entrepreneurial Characteristics

Characteristic	Description
Calculated Risk Taking	Makes strategic, informed decisions about when to take a risk, not reckless.
Communication	Effectively conveys ideas and actively listens in professional settings.
Creativity and Innovativeness	Generates original ideas and sees possibilities others may not.
Determination and Perseverance	Total dedication to success, overcoming obstacles and setbacks, unwavering commitment to succeed.
Drive to Achieve	A strong desire to compete, to excel against self-imposed standards, to pursue challenging goals.
Entrepreneurial Coachability	Seeks, integrates, and learns from failures, setbacks, or feedback to grow.
Entrepreneurial Hustle	Acts with urgency and creativity to solve immediate problems.
High Energy Level	Demonstrates consistent drive and enthusiasm to sustain effort over time.
Opportunity Orientation	Focuses on opportunity rather than resources; always scanning for possibilities.
Passion	Demonstrates deep emotional investment in the work.
Persistent Problem Solving	Tackles tough problems with a methodical, realistic approach; doesn't quit easily.
Personal Agency (Internal Locus of Control)	Believes success comes from personal responsibility and effort, not luck.
Seeking Feedback	Actively looks for input to improve performance; learns from critique.
Team Building	Builds strong, motivated teams; values others' strengths.
Tolerance for Ambiguity	Comfortable operating under uncertainty or limited structure.
Vision	Has a clear sense of purpose or long-term direction.

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