

February 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

It is a genuine pleasure and honor for me to provide a recommendation for Yakun Wang. Composition instructors are uniquely positioned to become individually familiar with students, due to very small class sizes and the opportunity for students' ongoing self-expression through oral and written communications. Ms. Wang was a top performer in my English 108 class, an advanced freshman composition course for International students with a focus on persuasive writing. Both her academic and critical thinking skills made Ms. Wang stand out among peers.

Ms. Wang is the ideal student that teachers enjoy working with in the classroom. She was always prepared for class and exceeded expectations on every assignment. The quality of her work was outstanding, always polished and professional. Not only did Ms. Wang explain facts and articulate complex issues clearly, she always supported her position with an abundance of reputable sources. Whereas many students struggled to locate the minimum number of sources, Ms. Wang generally provided double the required number by effectively utilizing research databases and respected journals. Her research and analytical skills far exceeded her classmates. Furthermore, peers benefited from Ms. Wang's knowledge and congenial personality. When offering feedback on classmates' work, she provided comments that were constructive and supportive – encouraging improvement rather than criticizing the ideas of others. She was well-respected by classmates, who acknowledged her helpful contributions by actively seeking her as a member during group work.

Ms. Wang's performance on both written assignments and class presentations exemplified her highly developed critical thinking skills. She began each project with a careful analysis of the issue and contemplated multiple possible solutions. She seemed eager to understand and evaluate many perspectives before proposing a theorizing a solution of her own. For example, when Ms. Wang addressed the issue of noise pollution around the ASU Tempe campus, she integrated extensive research from the past two centuries documenting the potential physical effects of excessive noise, as well as primary research she conducted with residents, and relevant, current data about economic impacts on the larger community. Ms. Wang's work is most impressive because of her ability to identify how the small pieces contribute to the overall picture. Her hard work and dedication earned a well deserved "A" grade in my course and an overall 3.52 GPA.

As an extraordinary student, Ms. Wang represents the future of our academic community. Her advanced research and critical thinking skills combine to make her an indispensable asset to the field of theoretical physics. I enthusiastically recommend Yakun Wang as an exceptional student, worthy of receipt of your prestigious scholarship.

Sincerely,

*Bonnie P. Quinn*

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