

Final Process Letter

Dear Dr Kelleher,

Cool weather. Perfect mood. Warm greetings from the security guard. An empty seat besides the wall. All is ready, for the final lap.

During my night run yesterday, a few words of wisdom from my last year's linguistics class teacher suddenly struck me.

“Appreciate the text. Write with control, confidence, and conviction.”

I was awed by the rich meanings within these simple words. ‘Appreciating the text’ involves being sensitive to the nuances that the writers want to convey. Every text needs to be handled with great care. Only then will the author's thoughts and designs not go into waste. It's a pity that nowadays people read like eating fast food, only to fill their stomach. Another meaning of the word, ‘appreciate’ is to be grateful. As a reader, I'm delighted every time I read a well-considered es-

say and I thank the author for the effort in creating such a delicacy. At the same time, any neglect or bigotry on my side is considered unappreciative.

‘Write with control, confidence, conviction’. Such an elegant alliteration accurately captures the essence of any good writing. Writing is essentially the expression of self through compression of thoughts. A good writing should reflect a personal voice and control over the writing. I often fall into the horrible cycle of self-doubt, but I told myself then, if you yourself doubt your ideas, how could you convince others?

Back to the test day, MCQ is generally smooth, until the third passage where I got stuck and spent too much time. (I will refrain from talking about the specifics, since I'm not supposed to) I only left less than 10 minutes (around 8 minutes I remember, it WAS that bad) for the last passage. Surprisingly I can identify with the passage on many levels, so it was a relatively smooth ride through the questions. In the end, I only

left two questions blank as I have no time to think and I didn't want to risk the marks by random guesses.

Synthesis essay, as usual, gave me a headache. I spent a lot of time reading and figuring out what to write. But I guess the time was worth it because I made use of all 6 sources in my essay. From the first glance I liked the second essay, and I myself felt the analytic essay is my strength, I wrote 3 full paragraphs (including appeal to ethos, pathos, and logos, as well as politeness etc.) It is possibly because I got too carried away that I didn't have time to finish the conclusion for the third essay.

Since it was the last and final process letter, I would like to share with you my reflection of the past few months of taking JHU CTY AP ELC course (there're indeed a lot of short forms ;p) I found this course accidentally and got in accidentally (when I applied it was actually after the deadline...) I was deeply grateful that I could experience the course offered by my dream school.

During this course of study, I have become a more sophisticated writer and more matured thinker. Although juggling between school work and this course is difficult, I don't have a tiny bit of regret. Before the AP Exam, I organized all the lessons, assignments, and feedbacks into the book. I was surprised it was 246 pages long! What an intellectual feast! Look-

ing through the page, I was impressed by how much this course has taught me. Your feedbacks and comments empowered me and the lessons provided me with countless insights. And of course, the assignments, challenging and intriguing, never fail to get me thinking.

Thank you for guiding me through this intellectual enrichment, I will continue to 'write well and have fun'!

Best regards,
Zhang Liu