Sample

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to be able to provide this letter of recommendation on behalf of Alisa Nguyen as she attempts to pursue her academic career at your esteemed university. I have had close contact with Alisa as a Teacher’s Assistant in three of her courses and I am privileged to be able to call her my friend. She is without a doubt the brightest undergraduate student I’ve tutored, and possibly the most intelligent that I’ve encountered in my 7 years here at Columbia. Her tireless work ethic, in combination with her brilliant mind and almost frightening maturity, has allowed her to complete a four-year undergrad in three years and has assured me that she is optimal candidate for law school.

Alisa is a phenomenally gifted writer. In her second-year Microeconomic theory course, she produced an essay on the effects of oligopolistic cartels on the American economy and the federal government’s recent abandonment of investigation into the practices of concentrated industries. Her firm understanding of economic theory and the history of oligopolies in the United States was flabbergasting for a student of her age and education. Also, the eloquence with which she delivered her argument had me questioning whether the paper was plagiarized. The essay helped propel her to the top of the class where she stayed for the remainder of the semester.

Alisa was also a valued member of the debate team and was well respected by her peers for her competition preparation and her critical analysis of the topics at hand. This extra-curricular club allowed her to develop her public speaking skills which were essentially non-existent when she first arrived at the University. An archetypal shy student, she relied on vigilant research to bolster her confidence. Her charismatic personality developed slowly over her three-year baccalaureate degree, but she now has the communication skills to compete with the most talented public speakers that opposing universities throw at her.

What truly separates Alisa from her peers is her maturity. She speaks with the conviction of a university professor and attacks her studies with incessant discipline. This is primarily why she could complete her bachelor’s degree in such short time; she was simply responsible beyond her years. While she was initially alienated from her peers out of presumably pure intimidation and jealousy (this is my theory), she soon adapted her approach to interaction with her fellow students by simplifying her speech and altering her perceived interests. This was not out of humility or modesty, but because she required their assistance in group projects and presentations, and their treatment of her was hindering her progress through university. Outside of class, she generally chooses the company of grad students and professors as she struggles to find others her age who are at her level intellectually.

Alisa is a force to be reckoned with and a prime candidate for law school. While she hasn’t always thrived as a public speaker, she worked on her weaknesses and through diligence and persistence, turned them into her strengths. Alisa is deceptively perceptive, dangerously sharp, and undoubtedly a gifted student. I insist that you admit her into your program as I am sure that you will enjoy watching her progress as I have thus far. Feel free to contact me at anytime to discuss Ms. Nguyen further.

Best,

Rachel Moscovitch

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