

Department of English

Shippensburg University
1871 Old Main Drive
Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299



www.ship.edu

Office: 717-477-1505
Fax: 717-477-4025
english@ship.edu

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To the Hiring Committee:

I am writing to support the candidacy of Erica Womer as an English teacher in your school district.

This fall, I had the opportunity to observe Erica's progress and development as a future teacher of English. In her role as a student in my method's course, Teaching Adolescent Literature at Shippensburg University, I found Erica to be highly capable of fulfilling her duties and responsibilities as both a student and a future educator.

Among Erica's talents as an educator is her passion for creating student-centered classrooms. Erica values the experiences of her students, and she works consistently to create course materials that will both challenge and interest them. In my course, Erica facilitated critical discussion groups and designed assessments that featured student choice and creativity. Furthermore, Erica worked well with her peers, and she engaged them in her course-created lessons in ways that demonstrated her knowledge of the content material as well as her mastery of the required state standards and objectives.

In addition, Erica is mindful of the diversity of learners in her classroom, and she actively seeks strategies for meeting the needs of all. For my class, Erica created lessons for multiple learning styles that featured visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and multi-media cues for her students. For example, in her Dystopia unit for Adolescent Literature, Erica created a lesson that challenged her peers to design their own utopian society. In addition to this, Erica worked collaboratively with her teaching group to build a learning "maze" that incorporated music, content questions and review, physical movement, student teamwork, and rewards. This activity—modeled from our book of study, *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner—clearly demonstrated Erica's ability to construct appropriate and highly engaging materials for her students. Each activity was designed to review the over-arching themes and literary constructs present in the novel, and her peers responded positively to these lessons.

To conclude, in my work with Erica, I have found her to be a creative and caring individual, devoted to her profession, and it is for these reasons that I recommend her for your position most highly.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shannon R. Mortimore-Smith
Assistant Professor of English Education
English Department
Shippensburg University