

To whom it may concern,

My name is Nicole Zaza. I will be your composition instructor this semester. I have been teaching for 11 years now. I teach writing because I am a writer. But writing is difficult for me. I don't mind the idea of writing, but it takes me a long time to figure out what I want to say. I make a lot of errors because I try to write too quickly and get distracted.

But English and writing were the only subjects that I excelled at in school. I failed almost everything else, so I dropped out of high school when I was fifteen and began working full-time. I decided to go back to school because some guy named Bad Eddie told me that getting my GED was cliché, making me a carbon copy of all the other people my age. I dropped out again, but finally graduated at an alternative school in Third Ward. Then I enrolled in community college.

For some reason, college seemed better than high school. This is probably because I was a little older and I realized that if I didn't get it together I was going to end up clocking in and out at some dead end job. I did like college classes better. It wasn't always easy, but it made more sense to me than high school. I got my Associates degree from HCC and transferred to UH for my Bachelor's. I eventually went on to get my Master's degree in English and Creative Writing.

For me, community college was the bridge that helped me cross over to who I wanted to be. Now, besides teaching, I occasionally write for magazines. I have worked as editor and I am working on writing a book about people who immigrate to the United States.

Being here, teaching this class was my goal for a long time. My next goal is to get a book published. From here, I can see all the steps to get there, but I know there are no guarantee that it will happen. It's difficult when you have family and financial responsibilities, but several people I know are publishing books and I can see it's mostly persistence.

Now I am asking you to write me a letter in response. Look at my letter for guidance about the kind of information you need to include. Consider talking about your educational history, your relationship to writing, your goals...I look forward to reading your letter.

Sincerely, Nicole Zaza