

February 28, 2015

Rhetoric Department
251 West Iowa Avenue
Iowa City, Iowa
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Hello,

I am going to start this letter off by stating; I am not much a “formal” writer. I feel one can give off a better emotional feel through telling it how it is, without using flowery language that distracts the reader from the overall message.

This past fall here at the University of Iowa, I was lucky enough to have one of the best teaching assistants/professors that Iowa has to offer. From day 1, Professor Tsank has done nothing but strived to allow her students to speak out about what they feel is right, if that is about the stories we read or the controversies circulating around the world. I understand that she was probably handed a specific guideline of what her class had to discuss, but with the time she was able to create her own teaching works, she did a fantastic job in keeping the topics involved with what we as the students liked.

The most memorable project I have completed in any form of schooling, had to be the Shark Tank competition that Professor Tsank allowed us to take part in. Just a little background, my class was like many, we had the goof balls, the “know it all’s”, the populars, and pretty much everything in between. But walking into the classroom with Ms. Tsank changed that all, we were able to work side by side no matter who it was, solely because we enjoyed the tasks given to us by Stephanie Tsank. The shark tank project allowed us students (everybody in the class was directly admitted into Tippie) to not only better our speaking and writing skills, which rhetoric strives to do, but it also allowed us to formulate possible ideas we may want to tackle when we graduate and move on to our careers.

But Professor Tsank, didn’t stop there, she required all of the students to give a sales pitch of their ideas in front of the class. I normally cannot stand the idea of mandatory speeches, but this one was different. She aided us every step of the way, wherever she could, to make sure we understood the task at hand. She was even nice enough to meet me on her day off, at the coffee shop to discuss my business proposal and wrap up any loose strings I had. Professor Tsank, was much more than just a regular professor, she was a friend with a kind heart who loved seeing her students succeed in every aspect of not only class but also life. I am very happy I am able to say I was a student of hers, and I am extremely humble to have the opportunity to write such a letter for her behalf.

Sincerely,

Zachary Thomas Dupre