



SHARON HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Admissions Committee,

It is my pleasure to write in support of Rona Ganthier who I taught as a freshman in world history and as a junior in my social studies section of American Studies. American Studies is a project-based interdisciplinary class that fulfills the English and United States history requirements at Sharon High School. Rona took the course for honors credit.

Rona is a student who is interested in learning and brings a creative lens to her application of knowledge. Academics do not come easily to her, but she is an incredibly hard worker and spends the time and effort to learn the material and improve her ability to communicate effectively. As a freshman, she was incredibly shy and tentative. She struggled to participate in class and organize her ideas in her writing. Although she was not recommended for honors level American Studies, she chose to override into this more challenging version of the course as a junior. Although the beginning of the year was a bit rocky for her at this more rigorous level, she really found her stride. I watched a student who would barely raise her hand as a freshman, jump into conversations to share her insights on controversial issues such as race relations, the #metoo movement, and immigration policy. The project-based model of American Studies, is one that really allowed Rona to shine. For her midyear project, she created a book of poetry that reflected the themes of both the English and Social Studies aspects of the course in the first half of the year. The poetry was concise and powerful and truly showed a deep and nuanced understanding and connection to the ideas and concepts.

Rona is a student who is just beginning to harness her potential. When I consider the great strides that she made in her confidence and ability as a student in high school, I am excited for the opportunities that college will afford her to continue that growth. She is a wonderful young woman who has shown incredible perseverance and courage in taking ownership of her education. She is kind, respectful and thinks about the world and her country through an empathetic lens. I am happy to recommend her and believe that she will be an asset to your campus.

Sincerely,

Jill Stevens
Sharon High School
Social Studies