



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

November 26, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to provide a letter of recommendation for Mr. Matt Stuard. Mr. Stuard was a student in my English 408 class during the winter semester of 2001. This course embraces two primary objects: to continue the development of the student's writing abilities and to explore methods for teaching writing at the secondary level. During our semester together, Matt maintained an on-going mentorship with a high school student which provided a platform for an in-depth case study in which he analyzed the student's writing, traced the student's writing history, and coached the student in writing across the semester. Based upon this interaction, and other activities in the class, he analyzed his own beliefs about the teaching of writing and reflected about his future teaching through the lens of these beliefs.

Mr. Stuard is an accomplished writer in his own right. As his portfolio will demonstrate, he uses writing expertly in a variety of genres and for multiple purposes. Among the types of writing that he developed while working with me were a personal memoir, a lengthy multi-genre piece, and a multi-part case study. Matt's writing skills are outstanding, and he demonstrates a passion for writing that is so important for anyone who hopes to teach writing to a potentially reluctant adolescent writer.

I think it is important to note that Matt also brings to the classroom a refreshing level of maturity. His military and academic experiences have supported his development as a future teacher who will approach teaching with enthusiasm and understanding. He has read widely from professional literature and attended professional conferences. He has highly developed technology skills and is accomplished in his ability to work with and/or facilitate a group.

Matt Stuard will become a valuable faculty member in any school fortunate enough to hire him. If I might offer additional insight or support for his application, please allow me to do so. I can be reached at my home at 734.426.2731 or at the university at 734.487.1369. I am also available by Email at Rebecca.sipe@emich.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Bowers Sipe".

Dr. Rebecca Bowers Sipe
Assistant Professor of English Education