

To Whom It May Concern:

In the fall semester of 2015, I took the general education class, Rhetoric with Katherine Nesbit; she, however, urged us to call her Kate. Going into the class, I thought it would be another four-day a week, boring class that I would be ready to be done with quickly. Little did I know that, due to Kate and her amazing teaching style and classroom atmosphere, it would turn out to be one class that I looked forward to every day and was not ready for it to be over. Kate had many different activities and lesson types that made learning fun, created a great environment for learning, and genuinely cared about our grades, our learning, and us as a person.

Kate's teaching style was interesting, and would often change according to the needs of the classroom and individual students. We read three books, all of which had an overarching theme of equality, tolerance, and open-mindedness. On a daily basis, we began the class period with a question; these questions ranged from "What did you do this weekend?" or "What are your favorite hobbies?" to "What was your favorite board game as a child?" Along with the daily questions, Kate urged us to come to her office hours to work on assignments, get help with editing, to talk about English, the class, or just to talk about our days. These two things, along with much more, really made our class an inclusive environment, and one where everyone felt comfortable enough to participate without the fear of rejection, discrimination, or prejudice. Kate created an extremely inclusive environment which I have not encountered in any of my other classes.

There were many activities in class that furthered our learning and helped to push our urge to learn about topics. One of these activities was very interesting, and opened up the classroom to a friendly conversation about a controversial topic. We walked in the room, and were told to read a few of the various articles that were taped upon the wall. All of the articles had to do with the homeless population of the United States, and shed light on the problems of homelessness along with many ways that we could help to fix the homeless population. After reading a few articles, and beginning our conversation, the majority of the class was not too kind to the homeless population and were not offering ways to fix this huge problem. After a while, a quiet girl spoke up and stated that she was homeless for a portion of her life. This really shed light on the issue, and that it isn't quite as easy or hard of a topic to fix or talk about than most of the class thought. Kate eventually took part in the conversation, after staying quiet to watch and not push her views upon the classroom. I do not remember exactly what she said, but what I do remember is that she urged us, as parts of society, to be open-minded, accepting of others and other's views and to not "judge a book by its cover." With her "ending statements" it was time to go, ending one of the most influential class periods of my college career.

Katherine Nesbit is my favorite professor of my college career thus far, and has taught me more than just English; she has taught me how to be a greater person and how I can help people and affect other's lives in a positive manner. Kate has affected my life in a huge way, and I wish every person in the world had the opportunity to gain a fraction of the knowledge that Kate possesses.

Signed,

(Robin A Stark)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin A Stark". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.