

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I had the honor of serving as Olivia's AP English Language and Composition instructor during her 11th grade year. In our time together I came to witness in Olivia a number of personal and academic qualities that I believe not just qualify her for your scholarship, but also make her a worthy and deserving recipient.

As a student, Olivia has been able to perform at a superior level all while balancing a relentless academic and activity based schedule. As a writer she is able to express her thoughts and observations in a technically sound and effective manner. She has a work ethic second to none, and is productive both individually and in the group oriented activities the class demands of the students. In a class of sometimes dominant personalities, her quiet demeanor and patient contributions make her work appreciated and respected.

As a classmate and teammate...she is an absolute blessing. Olivia's generosity extends from offering opinion and criticism, to simply listening - allowing her classmates to express their thoughts and observations. A dominant vocal leader she is not, but her willingness to offer a brief critique, read a written draft, or even a simple "good job" provides as much to her classmates as 20 comments I may make on a piece of writing. This generosity is admired by both her classmates and teachers.

As a person, Olivia is one of the finest individuals I have ever had the pleasure of meeting in or out of a classroom. She never takes herself too seriously, and is able to view her mistakes as a "bump in the road". Because of her experiences on the softball field she knows what pressure is, and has been able to translate that into her academic experiences. Make no mistake about it, she is driven, but her drive never gets in the way of her relationships, and friendships. Despite her success she still sees herself in the most modest of lights. In fact, if she reads this, she'd probably jokingly say that it couldn't be about her...and she'd mean it. How can you not love that?

I think the world of Olivia Persin. Her parents have raised an exceptional young lady, her coaches have helped produce a wonderful athlete, and I would like to think that her instructors have helped to mold her into an exceptional student. In the many conversations she and I have had, she has expressed quite eloquently the goals and dreams she has beyond high school. Olivia has earned the opportunity to see these dreams through, and realize the goals she has set for herself. Your scholarship will help her take that next step. View it as an "investment." What Olivia will receive is the chance for an outstanding education. What you will receive in return for your "investment" is a young woman of exceptional character whose potential is endless. I give her my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,



James G. Steeley  
AP English Language And Composition Instructor  
English Department Chairman  
Hempfield Area Senior High School