

September 8, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I write today to strongly recommend Rachel Karman for admission into your institution. Last year, I had the pleasure of teaching Rachel in AP English Language and Composition, a course that requires students to read difficult nonfiction and literary texts, study traditional rhetoric, and compose succinct yet insightful essays on a variety of topics. Earning an A in the class, Rachel clearly excelled in the course.

Rachel stands out in my mind as being one of the most sincere and hardworking students I have ever encountered. Choosing to seat herself in the front row for the entire year, Rachel participated in class on a daily basis and was never afraid to ask clarifying questions or to seek extra help before or after school. Rachel is an excellent reader who takes the time to annotate, re-read and look up unknown words, allusions or historical references. Last year, Rachel took a particular interest in the writers of the American transcendental movement. Through her oral and written comments, it was clear that Rachel both understood and embraced Emerson's self-reliance and Thoreau's non-conformity.

Her strong work ethic extends to writing as well. Rachel recognizes that a written piece is never done, and last year she continually sought, and made use of, feedback on her writing. The best example of her writing last year was a research paper which investigated privacy concerns surrounding the cataloging and use of personal genetic information.

Aside from her academic success, Rachel stands out for her dedication to community service. In January 2017, Rachel attracted the attention of local news media for using her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. In lieu of presents or a party, Rachel asked her friends and family to attend a fundraiser at a local ice cream shop. Rachel launched other fundraising initiatives as well, and, by the end of the year, she raised \$8,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Now in her senior year, a time when many students lack motivation, Rachel is enrolled in 4 AP classes and two honors classes. Outside the classroom, Rachel brings her strong work ethic to the court as a member of our varsity girls tennis team.

Rachel will undoubtedly make the most of the educational opportunities you give her, and she will make a fine addition to your campus community. I wholeheartedly and without reservation recommend that you accept Rachel Karman today.

Sincerely,

David P. Hermenau, English Department Chair