

## BASIC WRITING SAMPLE 2:

### Characteristics of Excellent Instructors

Throughout my years of high school, I have experienced my fair share of both excellent instructors and horrible ones. Due to my experiences, I have narrowed down the characteristics of an excellent instructor. I have found that an excellent instructor needs to be patient, he/she needs to be able to listen, and the instructor needs to be able to explain the subject in a way that every student can understand.

First a great instructor needs to be patient, because there is always someone who doesn't understand. If the instructor becomes frustrated with a student, while trying to explain the subject, then that could cause the student to want to stop learning. For example, in my algebra two class, back in high school, I had problems learning how to graph equations. Mr. Victor, my teacher, became frustrated with me because I still didn't understand the material. He kept asking me, "Why don't you get it?". After that experience, I didn't want to learn Algebra anymore. I was scared to ask questions, I felt like if I did ask a question, he was just going to become frustrated again. Because of that, I stopped asking questions and my grades' dropped in that class. On the other hand, my teacher for Geometry, Mrs. Burne, would sit down with us for as long as we needed explaining the subject. For example, I had problems learning the pythagoreum theorem. She sat down with me after class for an hour and a half before I finally understood it. Because she would help us out no matter how long it took, I did excellent in that class.

Secondly I found a great instructor needs to be able to listen to the students. Because if you don't listen to what the students have to say, how do you know when they need help, or if they are even learning? My American History teacher, Mr. Tagner, is a good example. Whenever I would tell him I need help, he would say "The answer's are in the book.". He just assumed we weren't reading the textbook. He didn't pay enough attention to see that we actually needed help. Because he never listened to us, a lot of people failed the class. While in my previous History class, Oklahoma History, the teacher, Miss Scales, would listen to everything we would say. If we said we needed help she would come over and ask what we needed help on. She would then try to explain what she wants from us on that particular part of the assignment.

Finally an excellent instructor needs to be able to explain the subject in ways every student can understand, because people learn in different ways. For example, I had one Geography teacher, Mrs. Paulson, and she would explain everything using as many different examples as she could. The reason for that was so that everyone in the class would be able to relate to the subject, and because she taught that way no one failed her class. On the other hand, my Physical Science teacher, Mr. Wright, would only explain the material using the textbook. If you asked for an example he would give you the one in the book. He wouldn't even try to give you another one, or explain it in a different way. So the only students that did good in that class were the students that understood what the textbook said.

In conclusion, due to my experiences I feel that I can tell the difference in a good instructor, such as Mrs. Burne, and a bad instructor such as Mr. Victor. I found that in all of my experiences with good instructors, the instructor was patient, listened to what we had to say, and explained the subject so every student could learn. While on the other

hand, the bad instructors lacked these characteristics. Because an instructor is a very important part in a students education, the instructor should be well informed in his/her subject, and should be able to communicate their subject effectively.