



November 15, 2024

Dear Members of the Graduate Committee:

I would like to write a letter of reference for Ariana Sims who is applying for the Masters in Environmental Science at Evergreen State College. Ariana has been an Environmental Studies student for the entirety of her college career and, as I direct this program, I have come to know her well. She is an intelligent and thoughtful student who has done well in all of her courses in Environmental Studies and at Kent State in general.

I have had Ariana in three courses. Ariana took my Urban Transportation course, with a thoughtful final paper on human-animal collisions. In this paper, she provided good sources for her points and presented these logically. The paper was well written and clearly presented. Ariana also presented an honors paper in the class on the future of smart transportation and self-driving cars. Ariana was in my Career Pathways class last spring and asked many helpful questions there.

My best experience with Ariana as a student came when she took the Environmental Studies and Sustainability class from me in Fall 2023. This is a course which involved students discussing readings each week, writing up reactions before class time and writing three reflective essays. In this class, I could always count on Ariana to provide more thoughtful responses to my questions. Her reflective essays were creative, insightful, and some of the best in the class. She was always good at thinking outside the box.

I have enjoyed developing the environmental studies program at Kent State, and students like Ariana Sims are the main reason why. She is a strong student who is passionate about the environment. She is also quite serious about her education and has expressed to me many times her desire to continue in graduate school. Given her interests, a solid Environmental Science Masters program will be just the right fit for her, and I believe you will benefit greatly in having an exceptional student like Ariana Sims.

I am happy to answer any additional questions over email or in a phone call.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DK", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Dave Kaplan
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