



Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Miller Hall 223 - MS 9097
516 High Street, Bellingham, Washington 98225
(360) 650-3918
<https://chss.wvu.edu/lc>

Petra S. Fiero

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To Whom It May Concern:

Nick Walker asked me to write in support of his application for the Master's in Teaching Program at Evergreen State College, and I am very happy to do so. Nick Walker graduated from WWU in June 2024 with a BA in Linguistics, and a minor in German. He would now like to embark on further studies to fulfill his wish to become a high school teacher specializing in Linguistics and German. I had Nick in two of my German classes, both at the upper division 300 level, and I am therefore in a good position to tell you more about this student.

Nick started learning German already in high school and loved the language so much that he took four years of it. He wanted to continue with the language at the university level and chose to complement his major in Linguistics with a minor in German. I had Nick in an Advanced German class (302) where the students reviewed the grammar along with reading a young adult novel about forced laborers in Nazi Germany. We discussed pertinent topics such as anti-Semitism, racism, verbal abuse that may lead eventually to extermination, life in a dictatorship and the love between an indoctrinated Nazi girl and a Polish forced laborer. The students had to prepare presentations on important topics, and Nick gave an informative talk about forced laborers during National Socialism backed up by numbers, visual aids and an explanation of the historical significance of this exploitation. The second course Nick took from me was "German 330: Focus Austria." This was a brand-new culture class that I developed, and the students embraced it enthusiastically. Again, they had to give presentations on a relevant topic, besides exams and homework, and Nick chose to highlight important aspects of the state of Upper-Austria in his talk followed by a well thought-out and creative Kahoot for assessing the students' comprehension. I also remember very distinctly that when I talked about the geography of Europe, and then Austria specifically, I came across an interactive website with a timed game where on a map of Europe a certain country was highlighted, and you had to click the correct name of this country. I invited the class to show their knowledge of geography up front and Nick's hand went up. He got every single country right and not only floored me by this display of geographical knowledge but also his peers!

Nick is a diligent student, more on the quiet side, but with a passion for the language burning inside him. Whenever there was a difficult grammar point to comprehend, Nick would get it first and help explain it to his peers. He is avidly interested in Linguistics, his major, and would like to teach Linguistics or Media Literacy in high school down the pike. This coupled with his knowledge of German is an ideal combination for launching a successful teaching career.

I have fond memories of Nick as a student and support his application for the Master's in Teaching program at Evergreen State College wholeheartedly.

Sincerely,

Petra S. Fiero

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