



WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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To Whom It May Concern:

It is hard to overstate the meaningful contributions that Puja Vengadasalam has made to West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South. As her 10th grade American history teacher, I've had the pleasure of seeing Puja make early contributions to current historical scholarship. Her extraordinary semester-long research paper, which was published in online an journal, has informed active academics, and her nuanced and sophisticated understanding of the historical discipline served to motivate fellow students.

Puja has a great capacity to draw connections between past and present and to ground her understanding of current issues in the context of historical events. This is mostly due to a perceptive, sharp, quick individual with a high aptitude for the humanities. Moreover, her focus on the experiences of little-known individuals and how the "unknowns" have a more profound influence on society than powerful and privileged elites is an impressive investigation into American cultural values—as well as the discipline of history itself.

I can say with confidence that Puja is one of the most caring and driven students I've ever taught in my years teaching at the secondary level. Her personal strengths are as impressive as her intellectual accomplishments. Although Puja is reserved, she has the ability to get a group project on track. Her cheerful nature and openness to feedback means she's always learning and growing as a learner, an impressive strength that will continue to serve her well.

Puja is just the kind of driven, engaging, and curious student that helped make our classroom a lively environment and safe place to take intellectual risks. She never retreats to a simple answer or explanation, but is comfortable dealing with ambiguity. Puja's fascination with American and World History--and skill for deep analysis--have made her an exemplary scholar, and the archival research she conducted during the summer months is impressive proof of her intellectual accomplishments and drive to find resources to back up her ideas.

Puja is a talented, intelligent student with the charisma, confidence, strong values, and respect for others to make a huge difference in the world around her—and in her local community. I'm looking forward to seeing all the good that Puja continues to do for her fellow classmates in high school, college, and beyond, as well as the excellent work that she will produce at all levels. Puja has my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

Joseph Gilch
History Teacher, MA, M.Ed
West Windsor Plainsboro High School South