

1 May 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

I met Jordan Parks in the Spring 2012 when he enrolled in a Civil War Study Away seminar I developed and led. In its first year, the program based us in Washington, DC for about three weeks, allowing travel to area Civil War sites, as well as places in the nation's capital (among others, the National Archives, U.S. Capitol and Smithsonian museums).

The workload for each participant included substantial reading and writing, as well as interacting with a small group—often confined for hours in a van traveling from one venue to another. (Despite being the group's tallest member, Jordan willingly--and uncomplainingly--served "time" in the van's cramped back seat.)

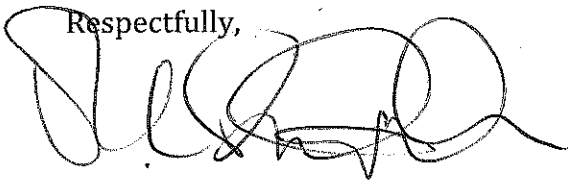
Jordan struck me as both mature and responsible. Although the students' tasks offered little real leadership opportunities, when I needed to bring the group together I relied upon Jordan to coordinate the mission.

More important, a willingness to learn exceeded his enthusiasm. He never lacked a desire to better understand the Civil War, both in discussing matters and asking questions. He earned a 4.0 in both courses.

I have seen Jordan periodically since that summer. He has always found time to update me on his academic progress or share memories of Washington.

Jordan is polite and good-natured, and possesses enthusiasm and self-confidence. All of these traits will benefit him in the classroom. He will make a great teacher (and good employee), as well as prove an asset to any school district.

Respectfully,



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