



Quartz Hill High School

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June 2nd, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I have had the pleasure of having Nyla O'Brien for the last year as a student in class. I had her as a junior in my AP U.S. History. In the year I have taught her she has impressed me as a student and person. She is very organized, shows intrigue in the subject matter, and does all of her work at a very high level. She works well in class with others when we learn in groups, she always asks good questions, and works very hard to succeed. This year she is on pace to earn A's in both semesters of AP U.S. History.

In the classroom I have known Nyla during Social Studies classes, which lets you argue opinions, discuss fact versus opinion, both of which she does really well. Not only did she show herself to be a critical thinker in the classroom, she developed into a quality writer that was required to do well in the AP class and on the test. What impressed me the most about her in class was her ability to not only ask questions, but to ask the right question needed to get to the meat of an argument or topic.

Outside of the classroom Nyla has volunteered quite a bit on top of carrying 4 AP courses this year and maintaining a 4.88 GPA. At St. Junipero Serra she has been a Life Teen Leader and VBS Crew Leader. She has volunteered at ExCel Therapy Services, and done volunteer work with the Girls Scouts. Nyla also participates in athletics at Quartz Hill making the varsity team in both Swim and Soccer. With some students who volunteer and play sports I have seen a decline in their quality of work, but not with Nyla. She continues to do a high level of work in class.

There are three adjectives that I would use to best describe Nyla: accountable, inquisitive and tenacious. She is accountable to so many people, including herself in class. While learning from home she made sure she understood and learned the material on her own. She has an inquisitive mind. While learning from home she wanted to know why she got the grade she got and what could be done to improve it if needed. Finally, tenacious. Whether it is on the soccer field, in the pool or in a classroom, she wants to finish and accomplish a goal, which I saw firsthand through her drive to prepare herself, mostly on her own, to do well on this year's AP test. I give Nyla my highest recommendation as a student who can excel at the next level in college, and in whatever career she chooses.

Sincerely,

Aaron Kavanagh, Teacher, Quartz Hill H.S.