



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES
1000 East Victoria Street • Carson, CA 90747
(310) 243-3322

May 3, 2018

To the Search Committee of Victor Valley College,

I am very happy to recommend Dean Ramser to your attention as a candidate for a full time position at Victor Valley College. I have been teaching composition with Mr. Ramser for the past five years at California State University, Dominguez Hills. In that time we have had similar office hour schedules—both during the regular year and for our specialized summer courses. As a result, I have frequently discussed assignments and teaching strategies with Dean, and on that basis can speak to his thorough understanding of the theory of composition, its practice in the classroom with our somewhat unique student population, and his talents as a teacher and colleague.

To begin, Dean is quite conversant with both current composition and literary theory. He and I have had numerous discussions about writing theory in which he coached me on the latest theories of composition. Indeed, last spring and summer as the Department unveiled its new Summer Bridge and Early Start programs, Dean offered insights to our task force on what we ought to consider in designing the new programs and, just as importantly, how we might put those ideas into practice in our class rooms. For example, the Composition Committee wanted to approach composition through the lens of “the rhetorical situation,” and Dean was able to instruct us on the latest developments in the theory in light of recent the commentary on composition theory. He also offered his own insights on what assignments he found successfully embodied these newer ideas. His was an invaluable contribution and one that will continue to inform these courses in the summers to come. Please note that this contribution in part earned him the recognition as the COOL4ED OER Composition Lecturer for Summer Bridge.

I would also like to bring to your attention Dean’s contributions to my teaching practice. First, he introduced me to *mywritinglab.com* and showed me how he incorporated this web facility in motivating students to revise papers multiple times. In fact, he shared many of his assignments on warm-up writing as well as grammar exercises. On several occasions, he emailed me articles of interest on teaching writing and reading. Given his cooperative, friendly spirit, Dean was not only universally well-liked by his peers here, but was also an unselfishly supportive colleague. Often, when I stopped by his office to talk, he would instantly put down his own work and give me his full attention. At other times, when my printer jammed as it often did, Dean quickly helped by downloading my materials and printing the number of copies I needed.

Lastly, I want to mention the personal qualities that set Dean apart as an exceptional teacher and colleague. For all his outward energy, cooperativeness, and commitment to others, he is eminently mature and tactful—always alert eager to help students, and dedicated to the work, never defensive. For these and all the above reasons, I heartily recommend Dean Ramser for selection to your faculty. I am certain that an appointment for Dean Ramser will pay dividends for years to come. He is an exceptional teacher and steadfast colleague.

Sincerely,



Herbert B. Long, Ph.D.
Lecturer
Department in English and Rhetoric
California State University Dominguez Hills