Getting to Know You: Letter of Introduction

In order to become initially acquainted with your writing style and to get to know you better, I ask that you write a letter of introduction. This letter, addressed to me, should discuss your interests, values and aspirations, as well as your strengths and weaknesses as a student.

This letter must:

* Be in business letter format;
* Be at least one page, single-spaced and in 12pt. font;
* Reflect who you are as a student and person;
* Use correct spelling and grammar (as well as logical organization);
* Be appropriate for your audience.

**This letter is due at the beginning of class on Friday, September 9, but I expect that you’ll be able to get a lot done during the block today.**

Because I will be using it to assess your writing, please make sure it represents your best work. The letter should be well-organized and use varied syntax and diction.

I look forward to learning more about you!

Use the space below to begin outlining your letter. Decide what to discuss in each paragraph and jot down of few notes about the specific examples you might include.

Academic Strengths and Weaknesses

School and extracurricular interests

Personal Information and Information

Ms. Sabatino

Strath Haven High School

205 S. Providence Road

Wallingford, PA 19086

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

New Student

Strath Haven High School

205 S. Providence Road

Wallingford, PA 19086

Dear student

Welcome to English 9: Introduction to Academic Writing and Literary Analysis. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to teach three sections of 9th grade students this year—yourself among them. I look forward to a productive and enjoyable year with you.

Before I begin to teach you, I need to know more about who you are as a student and person. I believe that teachers should be supportive resources for students. As a student, I learned best when my teachers trusted me to guide the course of my own understanding. The teachers I remember most fondly gave me the tools to ask good questions and the independence to follow through with my own exploration. As a teacher, therefore, it is my goal to tailor the style of the course to best meet your needs. I firmly believe that students should be empowered to take responsibility and control over their own learning as often as possible.

This semester we will embark on our study of classic and contemporary texts, including: Greek mythology, Homer’s *Odyssey,* Lee’s *Inherit the Wind,* Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet,* Golding’s *Lord of the Flies,* and Lahiri’s *Interpreter of Maladies,* beginning with a unit that explores the purpose of storytelling in our lives.

A theme of the course—the development of individual identity and coming of age—will guide our study, as we learn to ask big questions about ourselves, literature, society, and the world. Some of these questions include: **Why do some people conform to societal expectations while others rebel? How are people transformed through their relationships with others? How do we form and shape our identities? How do different cultures share common universal truths and/or aspects of human nature?**

As you may imagine, we’ve got a lot of work ahead of us. I’m excited to get started!

Sincerely,

Ms. Sabatino