

Dear PERB Panelists,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your time and dedication to reviewing my application. I am sure you are all busy at this time, so I wanted to express my appreciation for your commitment to examining and certifying up-and-coming educators.

During my student teaching experience, my primary goal was to foster relationships with and among my students. I wanted each student to feel safe, heard, and supported in my room. To do so, I dedicated my time, efforts, and abilities to shaping that positive learning environment. I anticipate sharing my experiences and discussing how I went about this goal with you.

When I was in high school, I had animosity towards English Language Arts; the instruction never reached me the way it did for my peers. Each time I tried to relay my thoughts through assignments, they always fell short of my teacher's expectations. It was not until my time at UNE that I had any meaningful experience in an English classroom. With Professor Brod, I felt like I could engage in the content. He made an effort to support student learning by scaffolding and continually checking for understanding so the information was accessible to all students. Instead of feeling discouraged by my writing, Professor Brod made me feel like I had potential. He is the kind of teacher I aim to be. He is the reason I want to become an educator. My biggest desire is for my students to feel like they have potential. It is also my goal and responsibility as a teacher to avoid instilling the aversion I once felt.

I chose English education to ensure students can develop a love (or even mild appreciation) for reading and writing. I want students to have a positive outlook on learning, and I believe it is my responsibility to foster that attitude. To achieve this, my future classroom must sustain an encouraging, nurturing environment where students feel supported in their learning and ideas, like Professor Brod's class. I am beyond grateful to UNE for showing me and encouraging me on this path. I cannot wait to share the knowledge I have gained through my student teaching!

Thank you again, Sarah