

Dear Jeff,

I just wanted to express my deepest gratitude for all the help, guidance, and wisdom you've shared with me over the past couple months. I honestly wasn't sure what I was walking into on my first day in your classroom. After hearing stories from my peers about their experiences in other classrooms, I realized how lucky I was with my placement. I saw a prime example of an effective teacher who really cares about his students.

Your student-centered learning approach to teaching is so refreshing and is exactly what I hope to implement in my own classroom someday. I especially appreciate all the honest constructive feedback you've provided me, and your kind words of encouragement. It was exactly what I needed and wanted from my placement so I can learn to become an effective teacher myself. The kids really appreciate and respect you as well, and even if they sometimes don't do their best to express it, I hope you know they truly understand how much you care about them. You really do a great job at making school fun and engaging for them, all while juggling the many issues that arise.

You've shown me that education is not just about imparting knowledge, but about inspiring curiosity, fostering empathy, and creating a fun learning environment where all students feel safe and can thrive. While I continue to hone my approach with less lecturing and more delegating, I will also adjust my timing so students can be more actively engaged with their learning like you've taught me. I know you can be your harshest critic and question the effectiveness of your approaches in lessons, and how you handled an issue with students, but I can assure you that you do the right thing and are a model teacher.

Your support has made a world of difference to me and I leave feeling more confident and prepared to continue on with my teaching journey. You are a great mentor and I hope to someday do the same for someone else, passing on some of the teachings you've provided me. I'm sorry if this letter sounds too grandiose, as if I'm nominating you for sainthood or something, but know that it's just because I really appreciate you and feel too many things in life get left unsaid. Thank you again for all your help and I hope to stay in touch.

Sincerely,

Andrew Woodburn

*Andrew S. Woodburn*