

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my honor to write about my excellent lecturer, Dr Subhan Zein. He taught me *Concepts in Applied Linguistics (SLAT 7706)* in my first semester at the University of Queensland.

I believe that the first semester is the most challenging to anyone. I went through quite a hard time during the semester, but I could feel secure in Dr Zein's class. It was possible because of his professional and compassionate assistance as well as quick and insightful guidance.

In his class, nobody could be a passive student because he always led students to think about the core issues of each week and share ideas. However, he never discouraged us. Instead, he encouraged students to talk with peers and to help each other. While we had tutorial discussions, he always walked around and listen to what we said and where necessary, he elicited answers from all members and offered guidance. Often, he participated in the discussion. I never saw him just spending the time sitting on the chair and looking at the students. Additionally, he did not present answers to questions in slides and activity sheets, which is probably intended to make students try to find answers through interaction and collaboration. He always provided the answers after we had a full discussion. These techniques made the class meaningful and they also helped me build up a close rapport with my classmates and my lecturer. In the discussions, which encouraged us to collaboratively produce clear outcomes, I could get to know my team members better over time. The deep understanding we had about each other led to productive conversations. In such a classroom atmosphere, I could be open-minded when sharing ideas and I had chances to learn from my classmates.

My classmates and I always admire his knowledge. When he explained a single concept, he always connected it to other concepts. This kept being expanded by his distinguished ability to smoothly link each information like a chain. Undoubtedly, it helped us push back the barriers of our knowledge. The technique also stimulated us to review what we learned in the last class or even on the first day of our class. I could feel that he is remarkably knowledgeable and he is also good at conveying information to students. Therefore, I was able to go home with the feeling I had learned something even though the contents of the course were quite difficult for me.

His way of providing feedback on assignments was remarkable. His comments were beyond just mere

words. He mentioned the part I needed to develop and gave clear examples, which helped me understand exactly the problems with my assignments. In his feedback, also, his own style appeared. Although he provided detailed comments and judiciously pointed out errors, he avoided presenting the right answers or giving revised written passages to give us chances to find the right answers by ourselves. This technique made me keep challenging myself rather than just being given the right answers without any effort. Thus, the moment I checked his feedback was a practical time for me to learn something that I truly had to. Moreover, when I found that I had written a better assignment after following his guidance and having struggled to improve, my self-confidence was also boosted. I know that not everybody can do the above and for this reason I appreciate him.

As one of the students of Dr Subhan Zein, I am convinced that he is a good role model for prospective teachers. I believe his professional teaching skills and extraordinary class management are not the only reasons why many students respect him. The most important reasons are his responsible attitude as a teacher and his strong passion for helping students to progress toward the next level. Even though his guidance was so clear that it was usually unnecessary to clarify or double-check things, he always encouraged us not to hesitate to send him an email if we had an inquiry. This showed his hard work and I could not help but work as hard. All in all, I am impressed by his attitude. I hope more students can have a chance to be taught by this amazing teacher.

If you have any inquiry regarding my testimonial, you may contact me at kkwlt18@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Jisoo Kim