

Dear employer,

One of my students (or past students) has asked me for a letter of recommendation for your open position or internship. I don't know anything about your organization or really even anything about the student because they didn't send me a resume or a hyperlink to your open position. That's okay, maybe they just emailed me to see if I would write a letter, and plan on sending me all that information later at their convenience. In the meantime I thought I'd get a jumpstart on this letter – I already know as much as I really need to know to give you a referral. Let's get started!

The student has never met with me outside of class (unless it was a required meeting for a grade or reprimand). I hold four hours of professor office hours per week – and as you know, I'm there whistling tunes like "we shall overcome" or "amazing grace"...by myself. Instead of coming to talk to me in person, the student applying for your position shot me a quick email telling me I'm one of the few professors who cares about my students, which I think is true, but the student hasn't made any effort to show me that they care too. Unless we consider their behaviors in class: strolling into class late at their convenience, constantly looking at their phone during lectures, or being on their computer taking "notes" on...Facebook. ☺ Lets not get into absences. Don't get me wrong; I give students the benefit of the doubt almost all the time. They are taking 4-5 classes, in sports, perfecting their social skills, and likely acquiring a resistance to alcohol – this takes commitment and time to perfect. Sorry, I'm on a tangent, my students complain about that in my lectures – lets get back to school performance.

I can't really tell you much about the student's academic performance. That is because grades are now protected. FERPA has made it illegal for me to share their grade or GPA. Since the student hasn't signed the release form for me to tell you their GPA or grade in my class I'll just say – they are a mediocre student. Hopefully their resume has their GPA, but something tells me the student asked me for this letter, then didn't even follow through and apply to your position. Sending me an email requesting a recommendation is the easiest part of applying to your position – thanks for that btw. Anyway, you are reading this recommendation letter and I'm excited for you, because you get to build a relationship with a student who I really don't know – I'm jelly.

In closing, I'll let you know that you have found the stereotypical millennial who resists being told what to do, is addicted to social media (but can't use technology to work), and skips around jobs relentlessly. Hire!!!! I dare you!

Sincerely,

Caring Professor, Ph.D.
University of Hard Knocks