



Pine Manor College

To: The Committee on Reappointment, Tenure and Promotion
From: Colleen Krieser, PhD.
Re: Faculty Chair Evaluation of Brendan Albertson
Date: December 3, 2018

I submit this evaluation of Professor Brendan Albertson as part of his first year year evaluation at Pine Manor College. On October 3, 2018, I observed EN99: Writing in the Contemporary World. Below is a summary of my observation of the class.

- The class was clear and well organized. He had an organized lesson plan for the class with clear goals. The goals for the class were to identify thesis statements and topic sentences and to strengthen writing through descriptive detail.
- He started class by having them work in pairs to look at each other's essays. They exchanged essays and tried to identify the thesis statement of their partner's essay and to underline the topic sentence in each paragraph. He went around to each group to check in with them as they worked on this activity.
- He reviewed theses statements with the class. He gave them examples of strong theses statements and weak theses statements. He then asked them to rank three sample thesis statements as strong or weak and to explain their answers.
- He had a very good rapport with students. They seemed comfortable answering questions and participating in class in various ways. He also did an excellent job of introducing vocabulary in a friendly and accessible way.
- The other topic covered in class was descriptive detail. He went through a few PowerPoint slides demonstrating descriptive detail and how it can be used in an essay. He followed this with an in-class practice activity in which they underlined examples of descriptive detail in a paragraph they were given. He also went through ways to revise sentences to introduce more descriptive detail.
- He also used a controlled practice exercise to allow them to practice descriptive detail. Each pair was given a sentence and ask to revise the sentence by adding more descriptive detail. Once they were done, they passed the original sentence plus their revised sentence to another group who also had a chance to revise the same original sentence. Each group got to work on 2-3 different sentences and then they could look at all of the different ways each sentence had been revised. The controlled practice activity was very effective because it allowed them to work together to practice adding descriptive detail.
- From the controlled practice they went back to their essays to think about how they could revise their essays to add more descriptive detail and to receive feedback from their peers on where to add additional descriptive detail.

Overall, I found this class to be very effective for most of the students. Professor Albertson provided them with the tools to identify thesis statements, topic sentences and descriptive detail. He provided them models on how to effectively use these tools in their writing. He gave them ample opportunities to practice in class under his guidance and then the opportunity to use these tools in their own writing as they work on an essay revision.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Colleen Krieser, Faculty Chair