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To Whom It May Concern,

I have had the pleasure of being a student of Dr. John Homer for three semesters. In that time, I have come to know him not only as a professor but also as a trusted mentor and supporting presence. In the classroom, Dr. Homer's desire for his students to learn is clear because he commits to not simply spoon-feed his class information. He challenges students to think for themselves by not answering questions directly but by leading them to discover the answer. Through this method, I have solidified concepts in a way that would not have been possible if I had received short answers for the sake of continuing the lecture. Dr. Homer also keeps his classes engaging by teaching through his personality. He presents complicated topics using personal examples and his quick wit. A class with Dr. Homer guarantees that you will leave not only more informed but also in good humor.

Because his personality is not hidden in the classroom, I always feel comfortable approaching him outside of class to receive help on homework, discuss my progress and struggles in class, or to simply put myself in a better mood. Dr. Homer's door is always open, and he never hesitates to stop his work and talk with a student. I know that I am not the only student who has appreciated Dr. Homer's availability outside of class because it is not uncommon for me to find myself waiting while others are talking to him.

Besides our interactions in the classroom, I also had the privilege to work on a research team with Dr. Homer and two other professors. Dr. Homer was not the professor I directly assisted, but because of the team approach for the project, I often asked for his opinion and feedback. As a freshman, I had very little experience in academic research. Dr. Homer graciously helped lead me through the process of research even though he had no obligation to do so. As I now plan to pursue graduate studies, I feel prepared to do so in part due to the foundation Dr. Homer helped build.

My time at Abilene Christian University would not have been as formational for me had it not been for trusting, caring professors, and I am proud to consider Dr. John Homer among those whom have shaped me into the educated, Christian servant I am today.

Sincerely,

Ryan M. Clements