



ORANGE COAST COLLEGE

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January 16, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Prof. Scott Hays. Scott has taught at Orange Coast College since 2002. He has taught ENGL 100 (Freshman Composition), ENGL 101 (Critical Thinking: Literature), and ENGL 117/COMM 117 (Feature Writing).

I have great respect for Scott as an instructor, and I would even go so far as to say that he is one of my favorite instructors here. To begin with, he is one of the few instructors I have encountered who is able to teach with great effectiveness in more than one discipline—communications, including journalism, and English. It is fitting that he has taught Feature Writing here since he is highly accomplished in that area. He has a long list of publications and seems as knowledgeable to me about both the creative and practical aspects of feature writing as anybody I have ever met.

He has also been highly successful here as an English instructor, where he has been employed teaching composition. One of the principal things that he brings to both the teaching of feature writing and English composition is an intuitive understanding of how students learn to write better through a combination of practice, encouragement and careful instruction. In my experience, people who can teach writing are rare—and, hence, very extremely valuable—and Scott is certainly one of them.

I observed him once teaching ENGL 100, or Freshman Composition, and I remember how effectively he taught. His lesson was very organized and comprehensible for the students without being condescending to them.

On a more personal level, I consider Scott to be warm and charismatic—two qualities that make him popular with students. He is one of those people that I look forward to seeing and I think that he strikes other people that way as well.

If I may be of any further assistance concerning Scott please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael Mandelkern, Ph.D.

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Dean, Literature and Languages