

**A letter from a student to a teacher illustrates why public school teachers should be highly respected.**

Teachers periodically receive letters of gratitude from former students. Teaching in public school is a noble endeavor. It is disheartening that many public officials seem to have disregard for these professionals.

A letter from a former student to one of her former teachers points to the efficacy of the teaching profession.

You taught me 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and Georgia Studies during the 2018/2019 school year, and I wanted to reach out to update you on where I am now.

Presently, I am a junior at Berry College as an elementary education major. I work as a literary magazine editor and I'm on track to be the head editor by the time I'm a senior. I also work as a classroom assistant for the private elementary school on campus and a summer registrar for Forsyth County Schools.

It is truly thanks to your influence that I am where I am today. You encouraged me to develop my skills in poetry and writing during a rough time in my life, as well as recommended me for the journalism pathway in high school. Due to your influence, I continued writing and was recommended for GHP with a concentration in communicative arts at Berry College. It was through the semi-final interview process for GHP that I was introduced to Berry, and I fell in love with the school. My work in journalism in high school and my participation in a slam poetry contest upon starting college also led to Ramifications (the literary magazine) hiring me as an editor.

Now as an elementary education major, I am often asked which teachers influenced me throughout my life. Your name comes to mind as the effect you had on me throughout my life is undeniable and stretches far past my eighth-grade year. Thank you for believing in me. Thank you for the work you put in. Thank you for coming early to host the poetry club and staying late to edit my prose. Thank you for handling middle school shenanigans (I truly don't know how you managed; I work with elementary schoolers for a reason).

All the best,