



The Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida 32306-1580

Department of English

May 14, 2018

Mentoring Letter for Kristy Cherry Randle:

Over the course of the spring semester, I have had the opportunity to work with Kristy Cherry Randle as a College Composition Program Mentor for first-year graduate teaching assistants in Florida State University's Department of English. I have met with Kristy several times during our small group mentoring meetings, and I have also observed her teach.

Kristy came to our small group meetings with a desire to learn. Although she had previous teaching experience, she wanted to learn how she could improve her college composition curriculum and pedagogy. Kristy asked insightful questions and prompted a particularly good discussion on how to handle suspected instances of academic dishonesty. Kristy was an asset to our mentoring group, and these positive qualities carried over to the composition classroom.

I observed Kristy's class on April 2, 2018. What most impressed me about Kristy's teaching is her ability to bridge students' prior knowledge with the new concepts she introduces. One particularly effective method is her "Do It Now" activities, which invite students to revisit and reflect on ideas from previous classes. She then uses those activities as a basis to guide her discussion. As a result, Kristy's lessons are tailored to her students' needs. Moreover, Kristy often asks her students to make connections to the work they will do in their majors. Her teaching style is one that emphasizes connections that will serve students beyond the classroom.

On the day that I observed, Kristy was introducing her students to the concept of remix. She started by refreshing their memory on genre. In their "Do It Now" activity, Kristy asked her students to list genres with their accompanying conventions. Then, she presented them with a wide variety of genre examples that also demonstrate remix, including memes, tv shows, films, music, and parody videos. As the class viewed the examples, Kristy invited them to discuss the varying audiences, conventions, and constraints of each. Then, she showed the class an excerpt from the video series, *Everything is Remix*, in order to continue to build on their discussion. Her use of engaging examples helped her students to better understand the material. Moreover, throughout the class, Kristy continued to draw her students' attention to how they might apply what they are seeing in the examples to their own projects for the class. She worked to affirm their responses and assure them that—despite the unfamiliarity of composing in new genres—they would not be alone in the process.

The Department of English at FSU is enhanced by Kristy's presence, and her students are lucky to have an instructor who care so much about their individual success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Brooks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amanda" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Brooks".

Amanda Brooks
College Composition Program Mentor
Florida State University