



## Adlai E. Stevenson High School

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To Whom It May Concern:

May 5, 2025

I am writing to you today in support of a fantastic teaching candidate: Scott Mayer. I had the pleasure of working with Scott as his cooperating teacher during most of this past semester. As a student teacher, Scott consistently displayed composure, maturity, and great interpersonal skills both inside and outside of the classroom. Out of all the great attributes that Scott has, though, it is his enthusiasm about being a teacher that most stands out in my mind.

Scott took over two of my three US History classes early in the semester. He spent the first three weeks of his time with me as an observer. I wanted him to watch the way I ran the class, organized lessons, interacted with students, and assessed student progress before he took over. I did the same thing with two other student teachers that I had earlier in my career. Unlike those previous two student teachers, Scott didn't just watch and take notes. He used those first few weeks to learn who my students were. Scott would help me greet students (by name after the first few days) at the door and jumped in without hesitation to assist me during lessons that involved students doing individual and group work. I appreciated that Scott worked hard to understand these young adults as individuals before he began teaching them. Those first weeks told me everything I needed to know about Scott. He displayed a joy for being in the classroom and interacting with the kids in a way that I hadn't seen from many inexperienced teachers before.

When Scott did "take over" my 6th and 8th period class, the transition was very smooth. For his first unit, the Great Depression, he pretty much followed my unit plan, content, and pacing. After that, I suggested that we stagger our units so that he had more responsibility and freedom in terms of unit and lesson planning for our World War 2 and Civil Rights units. This is not something I would have suggested or done if I didn't trust that Scott could handle it. I was confident because Scott had already demonstrated an ability to manage the classroom effectively. In a very short amount of time, he had established great rapport with all of the students in each class and formed meaningful relationships with almost all of them. These qualities made it an easy decision to give him more freedom to teach in his own way.

With this independence, Scott eventually started to navigate the class in his own way. For instance, in his Civil Rights unit, he chose to focus on key *individuals* in the Civil Rights movement of the '50s and '60s instead of doing a more traditional, chronological unit. This allowed him the ability to spend a day or two diving into key figures in the movement that may not have been covered otherwise. He taught lessons on key people like Fannie Lou Hamer, Ella Baker, and Bayard Rustin and others. These are people that I mentioned to my students during this unit in past years, but it was so great to see Scott allow the students to really dig in to who these people were, what they did, and why they are so important in our country's history. I loved seeing Scott approach the curriculum from his own, unique perspective and organize it in a way that he found interesting for the students.

Another trait that stands out to me about Scott is his willingness to engage with and learn from other teachers. Fortunately, we both had a free period in between the two US History classes he was teaching. We spoke during that time nearly every day about how he thought 6th period went and what he could possibly tweak to improve things for 8th. It was almost always minor changes about his discussion questions or allowing more opportunities for the students to do group work, but he was always open and eager to hear my critiques and would adjust his lesson accordingly. Scott also jumped at the chance to go to meetings with me that I had with other teachers. Whether it was meeting with one of our school's literacy coaches once every week to go over reading strategies or engaging with other Social Studies teachers at our department meetings, Scott was always enthusiastic to learn from others and improve his own teaching.

It was a pleasure to have Scott Mayer as a student teacher during this past semester. His positive, energetic personality was contagious both in and out of the classroom. I have no doubt that Scott will continue to develop his teaching skills and build up his repertoire of resources and activities as he continues his teaching career in years to come. He already has the interpersonal skills, mature demeanor, and calm presence to run a highly effective high school classroom. It is his excitement and enthusiasm for teaching, though, that will continue to fuel his growth as a teacher in whatever school he ends up at in the future. It is for these reasons that I take tremendous pride in recommending Scott Mayer for a teaching position at your school. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out to me at (847) 894-1220 or [tmoran@d125.org](mailto:tmoran@d125.org) if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Tim Moran  
Social Studies Teacher  
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