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To Whom It May Concern,

As a former rhetoric student of Maddison McGann, I am writing you in support of her nomination for the Outstanding T.A. Award here at Iowa.

I have had the pleasure of being taught by Maddie during my first semester at Iowa, and she was able to make the transition into college a lot easier for me. Her teaching style allows the classroom environment to be very welcoming and inclusive. With the small class size, she made it a point for us to get to know and work with everybody, without feeling forced. Each day's lesson was always organized and allotted the right amount time for each activity. Many times Maddie held open discussions during class which allowed us to have an in depth analysis over the current content. She is also attentive and observant and can adapt her teaching style to meet our needs. For example, at mid-semester she began noticing how the lengthy class time resulted in our restlessness near the end of the ninety minutes. She decided to start giving us a five minute break in the middle of each class, instead of having an unproductive ten minutes at the end.

I also was very appreciative of how open and lenient Maddie was on letting everyone choose their different speech or paper topics. This enabled us to choose a topic that we were passionate and excited to write about, and it provided more variation among us all. I remember once near the end of semester talking with a friend from a different rhetoric class; she described her teacher had only given a limited list of topics for the students to choose which hindered their ability to engage in their topics and be creative. After hearing this, I was very grateful for having Maddie as my teacher.

Walking away from this class, I have been able to identify the many rhetorical devices I see used in everyday life. This includes PSAs, commercials, billboards, and online articles. I know that I can view any one of these sources and determine whether they are credible or not and what arguments they use to persuade the audience. I have also learned how to create a formal yet persuasive argument through speech and on paper. Knowing this will not only help me for future writing classes, but it will also improve my speaking skills for job interviews and talking to future professors.

With her lively enthusiasm and knowledge of literature, I can assure that Maddie would make a great English professor and I have no doubt that her abilities and determination will continue to grow. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at the above email or phone number.

Sincerely,  
Olivia Warren

