

To Whom It May Concern,

Professor David Lang is a teacher one remembers. So often through my years of schooling I have noticed how past teachers are quickly forgotten because of their lack of impact. Professor Lang does not fall into this category. One who has taken Professor Lang cannot have a neutral opinion of him. Either you will love him for his challenging, demanding style of teaching, or you will hate him for the exact same reasons.

Thankfully, years ago I came to the realization that my toughest teachers were often my best teachers. This statement defines Professor Lang.

Professor Lang expresses the essential qualities which an excellent professor must have. He is honest, unselfish, humorous, demanding, and loves his field of study. The first day of class he told us, "This will be one of the hardest classes you will ever take, so if this is not for you, I suggest you don't come back." Professor's Lang statement taught me immediately that I was not dealing with a typical professor, but someone who would demand commitment. Despite his brutally honest nature, he had a dry sense of humor which would often put grins on his pupils' faces.

Professor Lang's classes were unusual. His tests were not multiple choice, they were not completed on a scantron. His tests were grueling, and one rarely left without at least a minor headache. I remember one week our class had taken a test on Monday and gotten the test back on Wednesday. The students were relieved to have completed the midterm. However on Monday, the next day of class, Professor Lang had a surprise for us. He gave us a quiz on the test which we just took, to see who had looked over their exam and learned from their mistakes. Unfortunately, even I did not see this coming, as no teacher I had ever taken had done this before. This made me realize that Professor Lang was determined to have us learn, and that college was about more than memorizing equations for a twenty-four hour time span.

Although demanding, Professor Lang lives in his office, which means he is always available for help. As long as I had put in effort to try to solve a tricky question,

he would patiently answer my questions during his office hours. I spent many mornings in Professor Lang's office seeking assistance with difficult assignments. Professor Lang would never do a problem for me, but would never reject the opportunity to help me learn the concepts with which I had questions on.

Professor Lang taught me, that in life when something is difficult, this often means it will be very rewarding. The day I completed Professor's Lang's class was one of the happier days of my life, because I felt as if I had "cleared the hurdle," "finished the marathon," and completed the challenge. As I mentioned, his classes are not for the faint of heart, but a strong teacher must challenge their students. Professor Lang is a gift to the academic community, and raises the standard of an ideal professor to a new level.

Sincerely,  
Brian Asher