

To Whom it May Concern:

I was a student in Jacques Weber's class as part of a summer study abroad program called Abbey Road. The program was a month long, and its goal was to facilitate our learning of the French language through full immersion in it. I experienced Jacques' phenomenal teaching skills both inside and outside of the classroom, as he challenged me to truly use French to express myself in every situation.

First and foremost, Jacques' teaching style was unique in that he used positive reinforcement to keep us motivated. Rather than punishing us when we broke into English, he encouraged us to struggle and grapple with the difficult words so we ultimately became comfortable with all types of French vernacular.

Many of my classmates were wary of being in class during the summer, but Jacques made even grammar so entertaining that it was easy to forget that we were in class at all. Between his cynical humor to his just overall silliness, Jacques kept us laughing and learning through an enjoyable and pain-free process. I have numerous memories of Jacques making funny faces, drawing satirical cartoons, and pointing out ironies in everyday life and can still link them to the lessons we were learning at the time. His teaching method was informal, which let us relax and truly enjoy learning the French language.

Despite his humor, though, Jacques was always very clear about his passion for language. This enthusiasm came through clearly in all of his work with us; we were drawn into political debates and discussions about the French education system as he actively played out both sides of the dialogue before our eyes. With Jacques, I felt the desire to participate; I constantly found myself striving to both emulate his zest and also latch onto his contagiously good attitude.

Jacques integrated himself into our lives both in and out of the classroom seamlessly, probably because he worked with us on real-world French skills. In class, when not debating different types of government or discussing the merits of comic books, we were reading articles about the same story from different sources and comparing the language. Our newfound language skills enabled us to stay updated on topics that interested us, even though the media was foreign.

One of the most indicative factors of Jacques' attitude as a teacher, though, is his true interest in his students. After Abbey Road, Jacques and I frequently talked through the internet, and even met up in New York City with another student from the area. It is a truly special feeling to know that a professional as distinguished and sought-after as Jacques Weber made time in between his trips to Texas, Dubai, and Cambodia to check up on past students.

Though I graduated from a prestigious public high school and now attend a high-ranked private university, I can say "sans doute" that Jacques Weber has been one of the most influential characters in my educational career. Any institution that hires him would benefit greatly from his work.

Sincerely,
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