



August 03, 2020

To Dr. Nathan Lawson:

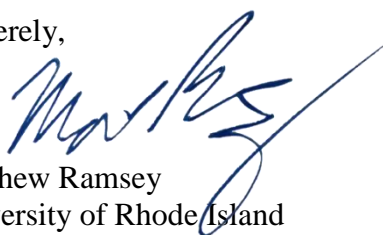
My name is Matthew Ramsey and I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology at the University of Rhode Island. I am writing to recommend Ben Toles for employment in your research group. I met Ben last fall as a student in my 400-level Microbiomes and Biofilms course and he also enrolled in my Science and Pseudoscience course this spring. Both courses are small enrollment and rely heavily on group interaction and communication. In the 400 level course it also requires a good deal of out of class reading of assigned journal articles. Through these courses and numerous discussions after class, I got to know Ben fairly well. I also know Ben's research mentor, Dr. Beinart, quite well and we have had several very positive discussions about Ben.

The first thing I would say I noticed about Ben is that he is quiet. Interestingly, he is not in fact a shy person and when in group settings he communicated with his peers just fine and when asked, or when he volunteered to give answers in class, his verbal communication was excellent. Ben is the type of person to not say something unless it is needed and I think it underlies a great deal of emotional and intellectual maturity for him.

In class, Ben did an excellent job and I would place him in the top 2 of the 14 undergraduates who were in our microbiomes course and he easily did as good or better than the four 1st year graduate students who were also enrolled. It was clear that Ben did the work outside of class and was able to take information from journal articles and make sense of that enough to interpret it in a class setting. I am confident that Ben can learn on the job if directed towards relevant reading material. I am also confident that Ben will be a stable and easygoing presence in a work environment. He has never projected anything but a confident and eager demeanor towards class and I believe he will take that good attitude with him into the lab as well.

I would hire Ben today if I was recruiting for a position and would love for him to be part of my own lab if he wanted to be. I think that once Ben is able to learn the key techniques your lab requires him to he will be an invaluable asset to your group. I give Ben my highest possible recommendation based on the extent I can evaluate him and I think your group would be very happy to have him.

Sincerely,



Matthew Ramsey
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