To Whom it may Concern,

My name is Julia Smith and I am currently a sophomore at Western Kentucky University, I took Biology 120 in fall of 2018 during my first semester. I came to WKU with the plan to be pre-med, and so my advisor switched me into this biology class instead of bio 113, which is for non-science majors. This was my first science class of my college experience, and also the first one I had taken since my junior year of high school.

Although this classroom was giant, Dr. Mountjoy really did a good job of making sure we all felt welcome to ask questions and to engage. She had a microphone so that we could hear her no matter where we sat and had screens so we could view the powerpoint. Having in-class assignments was a good way to take attendance and also to make sure we were actually interpreting the content. Mentimeter questions were also very helpful for me personally because if I got it wrong I knew I needed to work harder to understand that subject.

Lectures overall were really helpful, I luckily didn't miss a class and I know that my grade was definitely better because of it. Any time one of my friends would miss they would fall behind, and it was a very fast paced class. For the amount of material that we had to cover Dr. Mountjoy was really able to make it all connect in such a short time. The Kahoot!'s that she took her own time to make made a big difference for my studying techniques. Kahoot!'s and flashcards were the best way to study this material for me personally.

When we started this class Dr. Mountjoy promised that she would be available in her office, via email in 24-48 hours, and more. At first when I heard this I assumed she was just saying it like most of the other teachers, and that she would be there sometimes. This luckily wasn't the case, I can't even count how many times I reached out to Dr. Mountjoy and she was there at a moments notice. I always felt better going to her office and discussing what I had

missed on the last test because she was really able to explain it to me. Going to her office hours and having discussions helped me prepare for the final so much that other students were asking me to help them. The best advice I could honestly give them was to just go talk to Dr. Mountjoy because she really tried her best to help with however the student learned.

This class was such an amazing choice for me, it showed me that I really did have an interest in biology and that it was more achievable than I originally thought. It instilled a confidence in me that I didn't think I would ever feel, and I have so much of it to thank Dr. Mountjoy for. She really believes in all of her students and encourages them not only by giving them the answer but by helping them know that they are capable of more than they originally thought. I'm also very happy that I made a personal connection with Dr. Mountjoy because I know that she will be someone who will support me for the rest of my academic career. Biology 120 really helped me more than I thought it would.

Sincerely,

Julia Smith