



Roanoke College
Salem, VA 24153

December 7, 2009

University of Mississippi

Dear Admissions Screening Committee:

Maria Beatriz Paternain has asked me to write a letter on her behalf for graduate school, and I am happy to comply. I can recommend her without reservation. Maria is an excellent student and a natural linguist with a promising career in teaching or in any work involving the use of the English language.

Maria Paternain took my course *ENGL 321: Advanced Grammar and Style* in fall 2008 at Roanoke College. She excelled in the course. Our focus was the syntactical analysis of the English language using the methods of “tree diagramming,” a subset of transformational grammar. Maria brought prior training and a natural understanding of syntax to the class. She was exceptionally methodical, clear, and systematic in her work. She was helpful to other students, and never hesitated to ask questions. She sought extra help when needed. She earned the highest possible grade in the course.

Ms. Paternain’s achievements in my course are all the more remarkable since English is an acquired language for her. At first, she was a bit shy to speak up in class, but as the semester progressed, she felt more comfortable with the language and spoke with ease. In my course, students prepare diagrams on overhead transparencies and then present their solutions to the class; in effect, they teach the lesson. Maria always conveyed confidence and control while in front of the class. She clearly loves both the study of languages and the art of teaching.

Outside of class, I have known Maria Paternain to be friendly, well-liked, and well-mannered. She will be an asset to your program in every way. I recommend her without reservation.

Sincerely,

Martha Kuchar, Ph.D.
Professor, Dept. of English