

Dear Shelly and Kari (I apologize if I spelled your name wrong),

I would like to thank you for the things you have taught me in ALA class. You have helped me understand that my integrity is what's most important, not what others think about me. You have helped me want to do what's right and lead instead of follow in the wrong direction.

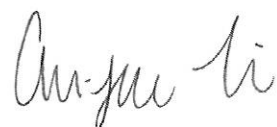
One of the things you've really helped me with was getting me thinking about my strengths. I've honestly never really just sat down and thought like oh, I'm good at this, or I'm good at that. You've helped me realize that there's more to myself than just being a person that's willing to learn, or being a good listener. I know those are good strengths, but that's not all I can do and that's honestly all I had on my list before this class.

I've always understood that people are going to hate no matter what and it's never really bothered me when people hate, but you're kind of a role model to me when it comes to that kind of stuff. You don't care what people think because you've worked hard to get where you're at, and I'm trying to do the same. I'm now succeeding at doing so. It did take me a little bit of time to realize that it's okay to ask for help, but now I'm just glad I stepped forward and came and got this help. Not only did I get help to get a job, or get into college, but you've also helped me understand my character and that it's not always about me.

Another thing you have pushed me to do is get out of my toxic environment. It is hard for me to get fully out of that because I live with someone that puts me in that place, but I'm getting there. I don't really argue with my grandmother as much because I know it's pointless and it really gets me nowhere. I focus more on the people that I value and the people that are going to get me further in life, and those people are my best friend and her mother. My best friend is in college and I've always wanted to be a vet technician since I was tiny. I've always been an animal lover, but I never thought I could do the job because of my fear of needles. Ashley, my best friend, convinced me that I could get over that and even if it ended up that I can't, there's always something there for me in the field that I'm going into. I'll now be starting college in January and I'm beyond excited for the experiences that I've gotten to do because of you and other people in my life have pushed me out of my shell and be more outgoing. I appreciate all that you have taught me and really just made me realize about myself and about everything around me.

Sincerely,

Ann-julie Rice

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann-julie Rice". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.