

Name

Instructor

Course

Date

## Gratitude

I went to a mathematics school as I always recorded excellent grades from a young age (‘@9) (‘@7). I believed I was a naturally gifted student with a smooth period at school. However, contrary to my expectations, the school was more competitive and rigorous than I had imagined. In the second year, I was achieving academic success as the pressure was becoming too much for me. I was able to finish the program thanks to my good friend Martin. His advice was strategic, and the true meaning of friendship from Martin (‘@8). I learned from the lessons he taught me and his friendship.

Students in the school were very competitive. The students also appeared to be always in a hurry, running to different places, much like soldiers in barracks do (‘@2). I was quickly taken through the induction and taken to class, where I joined other students as we awaited our first class (‘@2) (‘@2). In the disturbing silence of the classroom, one boy stood up, went to the front of the classroom, looked at us and said, “Hello, guys, I am Martin...” and just before he finished, a lady walked in and introduced herself as the teacher (‘@9). “I see someone wants to take my spot,” she teased Martin, after which we all burst into laughter much from the tension we felt than her joke (‘@1) (‘@3) (‘@1). She would take us through our first period (‘@8). The classes took off quickly, and we stratified into groups based on our inclinations (‘@2) (‘@2).

**SCORE: 92.6 out of 100 pts.**

Document formatting is very good, but there is room for improvement. Document formatting issues: body header. |Observations:| {Integrity}: 100%. {Length}: Just a tiny bit short (99%)—quote a bit less or write a bit more.

{Mechanics:} 96% (spelling 97%, grammar 100%, punctuation 97%, word choice 88%). {Formatting:} ungraded. {Reasoning, logic:} 89% (efficiency 64%, acuity 95%, clarity 100%, objectivity 98%).

**MARKUP CODE KEY:**

(‘@0) grammar; (‘@1) element missing; (‘@2) reasoning; (‘@3) word choice; (‘@4) italic; (‘@5) capitalizing; (‘@6) abbreviating; (‘@7) spelling; (‘@8) parallelism or de-linkage from antecedent; (‘@9) punctuation.

While we were all good in academics, Martin was brilliant. We could not match his speed or accuracy; thus, he topped the class all the time. While I was accurate, I was not nearly as fast and was jealous of his speed (‘@9) (‘@3) (‘@1). He would finish his class tasks before all of us and walk out proudly, leaving us in our slow-moving misery (‘@8). One afternoon, I asked Martin what his secret was. He paused for a second, looked at me, and said, “I read ahead.” “You read ahead?” I asked, puzzled. “Multiple times, on my fourth reread on calculus now,” he replied in his typical haughtiness. That Friday, I went home, looked at the syllabus, and spent the entire weekend studying what would be covered the next week. On Monday, as Martin handed in his paper for the in-class assessment, I stood up and handed mine also (‘@1). He looked at me and smiled. It was the beginning of a long friendship that would last through our entire period in math school. We became close friends, and school work ultimately became more manageable when we began collaborating (‘@3). We both relied on each other and encouraged each other, and together we made it through math school (‘@2) (‘@2).

As we walked out of our final paper, I asked him why he shared his secret willingly despite knowing I was his competition for the class top spot (‘@2) (‘@1). Martin looked at me and said, “I needed a friend more than I needed competition.” Besides, he went on, “You could never beat me....” However, I already knew that. Behind his veil of arrogance and self-importance, Martin was a good human being who would not let the competition get in the way of helping out a person in need. He had not only earned my respect, but had also taught me a valuable lesson that day. I remain grateful for his friendship and the lessons I picked along the way from him (‘@1).