

Yabsira Zewdie
85-65 66th Road
Queens, NY 11374
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Professor Pamela Stenberg
Professor of English
The City College of New York
160 Convent Avenue
New York, NY 10031

Dear Professor Stenberg,

I am currently a junior at the City College of New York studying electrical engineering. I am a transfer student from Borough of Manhattan Community College, where I completed my associate's of science degree in Engineering Science. I also recently celebrated my 24th birthday during the past summer. I am excited to dive deeper into this course, and become a better technical writer. I have written many lab reports for many of my science classes, and I believe the skills I learned then will help me in this class.

I spent my early childhood in Ethiopia with my family. I have beautiful memories of growing up. I used to play with my sister and the puppies we had in our garden. I also remember the school I used to go to, the friends I had, and games I used to play. By around age eight, I moved to Canada with my mother and sister, and lived there for about 10 years. Later on, I moved to NYC on my own to finish my education. I've been residing in New York for about four years now, and I have lived in almost all of New York City's boroughs.

My biggest achievement thus far is obtaining my associate's degree, which I got in spring of this year. I assume that, as an educator, you've seen many students graduating and probably

understand what graduation means to us. Even though I started college right after high school, I was held back from completing my bachelor's degree on time due to personal and family obligations. Because of this, my college experience has been dragging on, for what feels like an eternity to me. But that has made me work harder to complete my degree as soon as possible. I hope throughout this class you will see me as a student who is trying her best to achieve her goals. I know I'm not the best student when it comes to certain topics. However, I regularly try to step outside my comfort zone, and put my best foot forward.

Regardless of the setbacks I have faced on completing my college degree, as an aspiring electrical engineer, I can say I am now where I want to be: on the path to completing my bachelor's of science degree in Electrical Engineering at City College. As a college student with not much savings and no financial support from my family, I am facing economic challenges. I don't have a secure job. If financial aid doesn't cover most of the tuition, I am never sure where the resources to pay my next bill will come from. I feel that I must also mention COVID-19, the biggest challenge students have faced over the last year. Thankfully, I did not lose anyone close to me, nor did I get infected. However, I lost the retail job that was paying my bills for about two years and the residential educational program that I had been participating in for over three years. Even though I faced a lot of pressure to leave school, I stayed enrolled full-time and was eventually forced to take residence in a communal adult shelter.

Shortly before completing my associate's of science degree in Engineering Science at Borough of Manhattan Community College, I was able to find affordable permanent housing. However, these great achievements are not comparable to my acceptance by the Grove School of Engineering at City College. I understand that I still have years of academic exertion ahead of me before I can achieve my ultimate academic goal: completing a master's of science degree in

engineering. But my hardship has proven that my academic perseverance is much greater than any ordinary barrier life can put in my way. I plan to use my master's degree in electrical engineering to harness one or more of the following disciplines—renewable energy, electrical storage and transmission, and microelectronics—to create a more efficient, clean, and sustainable world.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I hope you enjoyed it! Wishing you all the best with the rest of your day!

Sincerely,

Y.Z.

Yabsira Zewdie

Engineering student at CCNY