



Which Teacher Do You Ask for a Recommendation Letter?

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Several applications for schools and scholarships require applicants to include a recommendation letter. Letters of recommendation (LOR) are usually written by faculty members such as teachers. Teachers spend a lot of time with students so therefore they can give a personal perspective on the students strengths. Colleges are interested in knowing how students interact with their peers and if they are a part of any clubs and organizations on campus.

When asking a teacher to write a recommendation, think about who you've known the longest. If possible, contact a teacher who has taught you over several courses or one that you interact with outside of the classroom. If you play a sport or are part of any organization, consider asking that faculty member to write you a LOR.



Success Pathway recommends Senior students ask for LOR's from teachers in their current courses. These teachers have seen how students work in higher-level classes. If you choose a teacher from a previous school year, take some time to reconnect with that teacher so he/she is aware of your current academic standing and interests. You can even provide them with a current resume, if you have one. If there is a particular teacher who has tutored you or helped you in a course you were struggling, they can speak about your improvements in the course.



LOR's are important to your college application, and although teachers are aware of this, make sure you ask them for a LOR with plenty of advanced notice. Give your teachers plenty of time to write a thoughtful essay about you as a person. When you ask, ensure that you are doing it in an appropriate and polite manner. Recommendation letters are not a required part of their job so if the teacher is hesitant, do not pursue them and ask someone else. Letters

should also reflect why you would be a good candidate for the college so make sure to let your teacher know which schools you are applying to.

If you know what career path you want to pursue, try to ask a teacher that teaches that subject. If you plan on going into an engineering major, your history teacher may not be the best person to ask. However, some colleges require specific recommendation letters from certain subject teachers. Therefore, you should try and have a variety of LOR's from various teachers, if possible.