

### **Reference Letter One**

I am writing to recommend Ms. Alberta Einstein, who is applying to your graduate program. Ms. Einstein entered our undergraduate physics program in the fall of 1993. She was a student in my freshman physics class, in which she ranked 10th in a class of 250. She is on track to complete her B.S. degree in physics in the spring of 1997. Her present GPA of 3.5 ranks her in the upper 1/3 of her graduating class of 20 physics majors. Students at this level usually are successful at the top graduate schools in the U.S. I believe that Ms. Einstein is an excellent prospect for graduate study, and I am pleased to recommend her to your program.

Sincerely,

### **Reference Letter Two**

I am writing to recommend Ms. Alberta Einstein, who is applying to your graduate program. Ms. Einstein was a student in my freshman physics course. Although she was not among the top students in that class, she displayed an enthusiasm and a curiosity for physics that led her to ask me many challenging questions after class. I was only slightly surprised when she decided to switch her major to physics. I have followed her progress with interest, and I am pleased to note that she is now near the top of our graduating class. She has a keen insight into abstract theory and a tenacious desire to get to the bottom of complex problems. These attributes will serve her well in graduate school. Alberta spent last summer working in my research lab on a project to study the antiframmization of carnoid protobromes. Owing to her newly developed enthusiasm for research, she spent long hours in the lab. Her contributions were essential to the success of our project, and she has asked to continue working on the project during the academic year. Her senior thesis gave a clear and complete description of her research. I know that this exposure to research has enhanced her desire to pursue a PhD in experimental physics. It has been a pleasure for me to watch Ms. Einstein's development as a physicist, and I am sure that she will continue that development in your graduate program.

Sincerely,

### **Personal Essay One**

The quest for understanding of nature has occupied humans for the past 3000 years. Since the early Romans first identified and named the planets and wondered about their origin. Today we stare at the heavens and we wonder about our place in the universe. Who are we and why are we here? That is why I want to study science. My first exposure to science was in third grade, when I entered my project on slimebags in the school science fair. Winning first prize in that contest only wetted my desire to be a scientist. Later, in girl scouts I helped our troop collect and classify edible butterflies. That showed me that careful and systematic work is necessary for success in science. Although science has come a long way since the early discoveries of the Romans, we still have a lot to learn. I want to study the fundamental questions of science and to contribute to making the world a better place for all of us. Your esteemed and reknowned university would provide the ideal place for me to pursue my studies. Thank you for taking time from your incredibly busy schedule to read my application.

### **Personal Essay Two**

When I started college I did not consider myself a good student, and I had no idea what I wanted to study. Even though I earned mostly C's my first year, my favorite course was Professor Krane's physics class. His explanations of how physics can be applied to understand nature were truly inspiring, and after taking his class I decided to be a physics major. In my second year my grades rose to mostly A's and B's, and I became focussed and motivated to learn as much about physics as I could. For the past two years I have had nearly straight A's in my physics classes. Last summer I worked in Professor Krane's lab on his project to study the antiframmization of carnoid protobromes. Our results indicated that the carnoid behavior can be suppressed by exposing the protobromes to a silflux of gnorlings. We believe that this is the first demonstration of antiframmization, and we are now studying its applications to fundamental zorphology. This was my first exposure to research, and I can truly say it changed my life. The experience of doing research has stimulated me to consider graduate study in physics. I am aware of the important work on zorphology that has been done at your university, especially by Professor Ixnay, and I would look forward to the opportunity to learn more about her results. My professional plans are to complete a PhD in physics and then to seek either an academic position at a research university or a research position in industry. I enjoy teaching and I have had the opportunity to serve as a tutor and grader in our physics department. During my graduate program, I would like to learn more about teaching and research and to develop my skills in both areas.