

Letter of Reference Instructions for Authors Watson Fellowship, Whitman College 2007-2008

You have received a request to write a letter of reference to be included in an application for a Watson Fellowship.

A Thomas J. Watson Fellowship provides recipients with the freedom and resources to engage in 12 months of independent exploration and travel abroad after graduation. Fifty participating institutions nominate candidates for the program's consideration. From this national pool of about 200 nominees, the program selects up to 50 fellowships each year. To learn more about the program, please visit our Web site: <http://www.watsonfellowship.org>

As you write your letter, we ask you keep in mind that in selecting Watson Fellows, we are most concerned with holistically identifying individuals who demonstrate:

- strong ethical character;
- emotional maturity;
- the capacity for leadership and vision; and
- the potential for meaningful contribution to society and a chosen profession.

Since these qualifications can be best measured over time by those who know the candidate well, your frank and confidential assessment of the candidate is important to our selection process. Only the program officials will have access to your statement.

In addition to your comments on the candidate's character, integrity, and promise, we would appreciate your candid assessment of:

- the proposed project;
- the candidate's capacity to undertake it in an independent manner;
- his or her cultural sensitivity;
- the candidate's resourcefulness; and
- the probability of the candidate deriving genuine benefit from it.

Please mail your letter of reference to

**Watson Nomination Committee
c/o Joy Viveros, Director, Fellowships and Grants
Reid Campus Center 222
345 Boyer Avenue
Whitman College
Walla Walla, WA 99362**

by September 28, 2007. Further, please save a copy of the letter in the case that the candidate is nominated for the national competition. In that case, you will be asked to transmit electronically another copy of your letter directly to the Watson Fellowship Office in early November. Thank you for your time and assistance,

The Whitman College Watson Fellowship Nominating Committee:

- Albert Schueller, committee chair
(Olin 240, 509-527-5140, schuellaw@whitman.edu)
- TBA
- TBA
- TBA