

# John Smith

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Dear School Administrator:

Completing my student teaching in Chicago holds special significance to me because Chicago is where I grew up and I want to give back to my community. My avid interest in history combined with my experience teaching in various positions fuels my drive to become a great educator, and I believe that Chicago Public Schools would be a wonderful environment for that to happen. Although I am open to teaching at both the high school and middle school levels, I feel well suited for teaching middle school students.

From assisting in martial arts instruction and leading children on wilderness camping trips to my studies here at the University of Illinois, I have pursued the path of education. My experiences in education began when I started assisting in the instruction of entry level students in self-defensive martial arts. At the age of 16, I began working with young students and eventually became an assistant instructor. I led Taekwondo classes for children ages five to thirteen and occasionally led small classes for high ranking Taekwondo students. My passion for martial arts motivated me to expand my expertise to Whitney Young High School where I founded the Martial Arts Club and was the leader of the martial arts portion of the 2008 Asian American Club Show. My drive to become a great teacher did not stop there, however. As I grew older, I decided to begin using another of my passions as a way to grow as an educator. Ever since I was a child, my father exposed me to wilderness experiences. By the time I had graduated from high school, I knew that I wanted to share my good fortune with others and so applied to work at a wilderness tripping camp in northern Wisconsin. I have led many trips through the wilderness with a diverse group of middle school children and have taught them a variety of skills from how to build a fire in the wilderness to how to canoe over a large body of water in high winds.

When I entered the University of Illinois, I finally began to take my various experiences into school settings and truly fell in love with the profession of education. It began in my freshman year when I volunteered for the America Reads/America Counts program. I worked with an ethnically diverse group of students at Franklin Middle school in a wide range of subjects. In my second year at Franklin, I won the America Reads/America Counts Tutor of the Year award for Champaign.

Now, I wish to return to my roots and student teach in Chicago. I feel that this is the environment in which I would be best suited to pass on my passion for history and true education. I want to become the kind of teacher that can aid in the path of any student toward one of higher learning and true wisdom, and I would appreciate any opportunity to further my way along this path. I think that I can make a difference for kids through education, and I will work hard to make sure that I am equal to this task. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Smith