

31 October 2007

Re: Nick Olynyk

This letter intends to provide an objective assessment of the employable characteristics I have observed in Nick Olynyk.

I've known Nick since October 2006, when he joined the Vernon Vipers Jr. "A" hockey club. In my role as the Vipers' educational advisor, I worked closely with Nick as he completed classes at Okanagan College while playing goal for the Vipers. Since April 2007, he and I have kept in touch, as Nick has sent me copies of his writing.

First, I'd like to comment about Nick's writing style. Perhaps I should say "writing styles," because he's able to adapt to different formats and audiences. Initially, he and I focused on his academic papers, where he seemed comfortable with academic language and essay structures. I suggested that he tone down some aspects of his tendency to overuse his extensive vocabulary. He quickly made that adjustment. Later, when he was gathering and creating materials for an application portfolio, Nick quickly adapted to a terse journalistic style. This past summer, at the *Regina Leader-Post*, Nick further developed a journalistic style to the point where the paper felt comfortable in publishing Nick's writing.

The above paragraph repeats the word "adapt," which signals one of Nick Olynyk's employable traits. His intelligence and intensity make him a quick study, and his strong work ethic propels him to develop relevant skills. Employers will, I'm sure, find that Nick will meet all deadlines and that his work will be exemplary. Nick Olynyk is what is known as a "focused individual."

Another of Nick's employable traits is his curiosity and desire to learn. He wants to know more, he's genuinely interested in the full range of the human condition, and he wants to develop as a thinker, researcher, and writer. These traits, of course, transfer to a variety of careers, not just to a career as a journalist or creative writer.

If you would like to learn more about my bases for the positive evaluation expressed in this letter, please email me at dklepp@shaw.ca or phone me at 250.549.3092. I would be pleased to provide specific details.

Sincerely,



Don Klepp