

January 30, 1929

Mr. Edward Stoddard
Beta House
Tenth Street
Bloomington, Indiana

My dear Mr. Stoddard:

I am inclosing Dr. Moore's detailed statement concerning your work in English Composition. You will agree, I am sure, that under the conditions which he outlines there is no probability of your receiving a passing grade in English for the present semester.

Sincerely yours,

HHC/AE

"Mr. Stoddard was admitted to Group III as a result of his making a grade of B in the special examination early in the fall.

"The grade of a student in the course is based on four considerations: his themes, his work in the classroom, his conferences with the instructor, and his final examination. It is made clear throughout the course that no student will be passed who does not get in all of his themes, and get them in on time; that no student will be passed who does not come up for assigned conferences so that I can keep in personal touch with him and his work; and that no student will be passed who does not take an active part in the recitations. The examination is regarded as very subordinate in importance, counting at most from 10% to 20% of the grade, and serving merely as a review of the reading or text assignments. Ordinarily the examination serves only to separate A- students from B students, or B- from C students. This has all been repeatedly explained in class.

"Mr. Stoddard has failed in all four respects. His examination (the least important of the four considerations) showed that he had read only part of the assigned articles in The Atlantic Monthly, and that his understanding of them was inadequate. His grade on the examination was F.

"His conferences were much more deficient. He signed up for one conference and then absented himself from the appointment. I named two subsequent appointments for him, and he came up for neither. I then reported him to the Dean at mid-term, but still got no response from him whatever. Fairly well along in January he suddenly appeared and began to ask about passing; but it was far too late then for a conference to have any desirable effect on his mental growth during a semester's time. His conferences, then, consist only of eleventh-hour entreaties for a grade. No interest in his work has been shown by him, and no opportunity for personal instruction has been given me by such conferences. His grade on conferences for the semester is, accordingly, a zero.

"In the classroom Mr. Stoddard's work has again been far below passing. Since his late-January reform he has made a grade of B on one recitation; before that he was charged with two zeros, besides a great number of unrecorded failures. He was a figurehead in the class all of the time he was present; and he was absent or late many times.

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"In his themes, upon which his grade primarily rests, Mr. Stoddard did passing work until and including October 30; since that time he has handed in all themes from a week to nearly three months late, nearly all of them during the last few days of the semester, and only one of them receiving a passing grade. The others were vague, repetitions, empty of ideas, and extremely brief. Even before October 30 his work was going steadily downward: B, B, C, C, BO, each with more severe criticisms for the same faults of vagueness, generalities, and insufficiency. The last theme (No. 5) received a grade of B- because part of it showed imagination; the rest was worse than usual.

"In conclusion, Mr. Stoddard has failed in theme work, recitations, conferences, and examination. He has ignored conference appointments and a 'smoke-up' from the Dean. He has made no progress whatever in the course; and if he writes passably well now, it is no better than he did last September, and infinitely below what I would expect of a student who had finished the semester in the course.

J. R. Moore."