

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

- Due as a Microsoft Word attachment via email by 5pm, Wednesday, February 9, 2010. In order to prevent your letter from getting lost in the mess that is my inbox, make sure that your subject heading includes the phrase "POL 395." My email is arosenth@gustavus.edu.
- 1-2 single-spaced pages (approximately); 10 or 12 point font; 1" margins.

A few of you may be thinking, "Another letter of introduction? But I wrote you one last semester. And the semester before that!" Tough luck. If that's the case, do something vaguely creative to kick off the semester. Write me your obituary (for a long, long time in the future). Tell me about your break or your J-term. Tell me about your plans for the future. Tell me about how you've changed since the last letter of introduction you wrote. Tell me things I don't know about you. Although you should feel free to write informally in this assignment, your letter must be proofread for grammar and spelling and edited for clarity and lucidity.

The following is not a checklist of questions to answer in your letter – it is merely intended to give you a sense of the sorts of things I'm interested in learning about you. **BUT THERE ARE TWO THINGS THAT YOU MUST INCLUDE IN YOUR LETTER:**

- (1) 3 interesting, little-known facts about you (that you wouldn't object to your classmates knowing);
- (2) Your top three choices for cases to present (see syllabus for list of cases you can't choose.)

1. Who are you?

- What words would you use to describe yourself? What are the important parts of your identity?
- What words would you use to describe your family and your upbringing?
- What do you do in your spare time?
- What kinds of jobs have you held? What kind of job would you like to have?
- Where have you traveled? Where would you like to travel? Why?
- What's your major/minor? Why?
- What kind(s) of music do you listen to? What kind(s) of movies do you enjoy? What kind(s) of books do you read? Why these?
- What have you changed your mind about in the past six months?
- What do you believe to be true about the world?

2. Why are you here?

- In college?
- At Gustavus Adolphus, specifically?
- In the Political Science department? In this course?
- What are your goals for this semester (not necessarily academic goals)? Be specific.
- What are your goals for this course? Be specific, but don't simply tell me a grade.

3. How do you learn?

- How do you best process information? (E.g. visually, orally, through writing)
- What teaching methods/classroom activities do you find most useful? (E.g. lecture, small group discussion, large group discussion)
- What teaching methods/classroom activities do you find least useful?
- Having looked over the syllabus and course requirements, what aspects of the course are you most concerned about? Most excited about?

ANYTHING ELSE YOU THINK I SHOULD KNOW...