



September 5, 2020

Dear Friends at Citizens' High School,

I would like to express my students and my gratitude for your program. Our students are challenged and growing in leaps and bounds using the curriculum you have recommended for them. The curriculum serves as a terrific springboard to lots of discussions. Thank you for providing these young adults with a motivating curriculum.

Culebra, PR is a very small island with less than 2,500 full time residents. Many children stop their education early due to many factors, one of the biggest factors being the lack of building dreams. No stop lights, movie theaters, pharmacies, or fast food restaurants, and a speed limit of 35 paint a realistic picture of the simplicity of this island..... if, you want fancy, it's not here. While living here is paradise in many respects, it is limiting in others. We started with the Citizen's program YEARS ago. Because the wages earned here are quite low, we sought an affordable program to help push our Spanish (first) students to master English. We also sought a program that would help our students gain confidence in their academic endeavors, help them to see how they "compare" with their stateside peers, and to help our students gain a stronger and more mature understanding of the "world out there."

The kindness, professionalism, and responsiveness of the Citizen's staff has been integral in our students' successes. Over 20 + years together we are tremendously appreciative. Ryan set the tone for us by always getting back to us and for being so patient and helpful. As we have grown, so has Citizens. We are leery of our internet service here, so having the opportunity to study unplugged has been a huge help. Personally, I have experienced many online courses that have been huge stress producers because, inevitably, when an essay was due, a hurricane would come or the internet would fail for too many reasons.

I strongly encourage other students and educators to use Citizens. As a teacher of more than 25 years, I have helped many students through the Citizens' programs. When I have questioned an assignment, the supportive team at Citizens has been quick to respond. There are numerous educational programs available for huge prices and less interaction with the students. With the new "Journeys" program, we have found creative assignments (especially in the history courses), and LOTS of writing. This latter skill has nose-dived with increased computer use and influence in the average classroom. I am thrilled that the students will carry stronger, deeper writing skills to the college level and beyond.

On behalf of my students and self, THANK YOU for helping America to build a stronger and more educated generation. I feel SUPER CONFIDENT that my students will take the Citizens' skills and make a positive difference in the world. Let's keep building dreams together!

With warm regards,

Abbie White-Thomas