

# Theatre Critical Studies Teaching Assistant Application

This application is for students interested in being a TA for Theatre Critical Studies classes.

The application requires you to provide the following:

1. A completed application form
2. An ABC report.
3. A Letter of Intent  
This letter should be no more than 1 page, single-spaced. It should include a discussion of why you would like to serve as a TA, a review of previous teaching experience, and a philosophy of teaching.
4. A Critical Writing Sample  
Critical writing is a paper that requires research, analysis, and critical thinking. They can be assignments written for classes such as TMA 201, 202, 395, 396, or English Advanced Writing. We will not accept creative writing such as poetry or plays. We would like only 3 pages of writing—either an entire work that is 3-pages long or the first 3 pages of a longer work.
5. A Sample Grading Assignment.  
Attached to this application is a sample undergraduate writing assignment. We would like you to review the work and “grade” it on a letter scale (A, A-, B+, etc.). Please keep in mind that grading papers is not about giving points but about assessing progress in a class. You will need to justify the grade you assign with comments and questions throughout the body of the paper. After you have completed your grading, make sure to note how long you spent grading in the space provided.

There are roughly a dozen TA positions available every semester. We generally try to hire students that can continue in a position for a full year, although it is possible to work only one semester. If you are hired, you will need to take a mandatory theatre pedagogy class that meets first block of Fall semester: TMA 316 (for undergraduate applicants) or TMA 616 (for graduate student applicants). If you have questions about this application, about the jobs themselves, or about the hiring process, contact Professor Hollingshaus at [wadeh@byu.edu](mailto:wadeh@byu.edu) or 422-8995.

If you have already worked as a TA and would like to be considered again, you only need to fill out #1 listed above.

**Applications are due to Prof. Hollingshaus (box in D-581) by March 15.**

## Theatre Critical Studies Teaching Assistant Application

<b>DATE</b>	<b>NAME</b>
<b>STUDENT ID</b>	<b>BYU internet ID</b>
<b>EMAIL</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
<b>YEAR IN SCHOOL:</b> Undergrad 1 2 3 4 5    Grad 1 2 3	<b>PROJECTED GRADUATION DATE</b>
<b>GRADE (or current standing) FOR THE FOLLOWING TMA COURSES:</b>	
115____ 201____ 202____ 236____ 395____ 396____ 401____	
<b>SELECT THE CLASSES FOR WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED:</b>	
<p><b>TMA 101:</b> Summer 2013____ Fall 2013____ Winter 2014____  Supervise a section of students and grade assignments.  Su13: MWF 9-11am. F13/W14: MWF 4-5pm. Also a weekly TA meeting</p>	
<p><b>TMA 115:</b> Fall 2013____ Winter 2014____  Supervise a section of students and grade assignments. Teach an occasional section activity.  F13/W14: MWF 2-3pm. Also a weekly TA meeting</p>	
<p><b>TMA 201/202:</b> Spring 2013____ Summer 2013____ Fall 2013____ Winter 2014____  Supervise a section of students and grade assignments. Teach an occasional section activity.  Sp13/Su13: MWF 11-1pm. F13/W14: MWF 11am-12pm. Also a weekly TA meeting.</p>	
<p><b>TMA 236:</b> Spring 2013____ Fall 2013____ Winter 2014____  Supervise a section of students and grade assignments.  Sp13: MTWTH 1-3pm. F13/W14: MW 9-11am. Also a weekly TA meeting</p>	
<p><b>TMA 395/396:</b> Fall 2013____ Winter 2014____  Supervise 2 sections of students and grade assignments. MWF 12-2pm and a weekly TA meeting.</p>	
<p><b>TMA 401:</b> Fall 2013____ Winter 2014____  Supervise a section of students and grade assignments. TTH 9-11am.</p>	
<p><b>F/W APPOINTMENTS ARE UP TO 10HR./WK—EXCEPT FOR 395/396, WHICH IS UP TO 20HR./WK.  SP/SU APPOINTMENTS ARE UP TO 20HR./WK.</b></p>	
<b>SELECT THE SEMESTER(S) FOR WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED:</b> (keep in mind that we try to hire TAs that will be available for the entire year)	
<b>SPRING            SUMMER            FALL            WINTER</b>	
<b>Names of TMA faculty whom we could contact for a recommendation:</b>	
_____	

## SAMPLE GRADING ASSIGNMENT

You need to grade the following short assignments. They are thesis-driven argumentative papers in a classic 5-paragraph style (introduction, 3 paragraphs of support, conclusion). Assume that these are freshman or sophomore writers.

In each paper,

- The thesis should be easily identifiable
- The arguments should be clear
- The support should be logical
- There should be little to no mechanical errors

You will want to make comments throughout and assign a letter grade (A, A-, B+, etc.) based on how well the students wrote following the above criteria.. Keep track of how long it takes you to grade each paper, and put the time spent in the top corner.

Time spent? \_\_\_\_\_

### Are School Uniforms A Good Idea?

Over the past few years, many school boards have debated the issue of students wearing school uniforms. Several schools have introduced this rule into school policy, while several others are still discussing the subject. Although wearing uniforms is a minor change for students, it is an effective and much needed one.

Wearing school uniforms can be helpful in many ways. First, having matching outfits can make all students feel equal. Poor students would no longer feel excluded because they were not wearing name brand clothing like the richer kids. In addition, social status would be less of an issue because everyone would be wearing the same clothing. One of the biggest arguments against school uniforms is that students would lose their sense of individuality. I believe that uniforms will improve students' individuality because they will have to express themselves through their personality and attitude, rather than through an expensive pair of shoes or a brand name pair of jeans. Uniforms will improve self-esteem in the students because they will not feel pressured to dress a certain way.

Secondly, uniforms will allow more time for studying. Students who have to wear a uniform will spend less time shopping and more time studying than those who do not have to wear uniforms. Also, students will be more focused on their schoolwork than worrying about what they will wear the next day. Students will arrive at school earlier because they will not be trying on several different outfits each morning. Having an outfit already chosen for students is one less thing for them to worry about in their already stressful lives.

Most importantly, school uniforms will save money. Parents will no longer have to spend a fortune on school clothes because they will only need to buy a few uniforms. Of course, parents will still have to buy their kids clothes for weekends, but the quantity of clothes that they buy will be lowered.

While most students will disagree, every school should introduce uniforms into its policy. Students should go to school to learn and not have to worry about being judged by the clothes they are wearing. Uniforms will not only improve the atmosphere of the school, but will also raise the self-esteem of most students and save money for most parents.

Time spent? \_\_\_\_\_

### Should Prayer Be Brought Back Into The School Systems?

There are several reasons why prayer should be brought back into the school systems today. One, if there were prayer in school this could help children to understand how the world was started. Prayer in school may influence a child to read the bible. The child could learn a lot about how the world came about by reading the bible. Prayer in school could also influence a child to be thankful and more appreciative of others. For instance, our school systems today have turned to violence and hatred. If a child is taught about God in school then the child has a better chance of having good morals and is more respectful of others. Therefore, if a child has good morals the child would not want to be violent. If the child's parent's do not teach the child about God at home, does not take them to church or read the bible to them, then school is the only place for them to learn about God.

If the child is not taught about God or religion at home or in school then this could be harmful to the child and also to the public. Children who have no knowledge of God tend to have lower morals than children who have knowledge and believe in God. If children do not believe in God then they seem to think it is okay to carry a gun to school and kill someone. They believe that doing drugs is okay. If you have a parent's at home that do not believe in God and do drugs then the children think well mom and dad can do it why can't I. If the child does not believe in God then they think stealing is okay. It seems to me that if the child does not believe in God then they have nothing to fear, therefore, they feel they are invisible and can do anything and it will be okay. If a child is not taught about God and religion at home than school is their only source of learning.

There are many people in the world today who are completely against prayer in schools. These people feel their children should not have to be exposed to prayer during school time. Maybe the parent's themselves do not believe in God and they want the same for their children. Myself personally I can not think of any reason not to bring prayer back into the school systems.

I believe prayer should be brought back into the school systems. I think if religion was more focused on in school, then the school systems would be a better and safer place for our children today. I also believe the teachers would feel more safe at their jobs if they had the chance to teach a student about God.