1. Based on your observation of or experience with the candidate, comment on his/her ability to express themselves competently and clearly in English, orally and in writing. If relevant, comment on specific situations where you have observed the candidates communication skills (e.g., classroom presentations, coursework, co-curricular activities, etc.)

Lindsay wrote several papers and gave presentations in both courses with me. In each setting, she demonstrated above average communication skills. She responds well to feedback and is motivated to improve both orally and in writing. She has already successfully demonstrated her abilities to communicate effectively as an educator and I have no concerns regarding her ability to communicate in English. She will be an excellent role model for English Language Learners and for those seeking to develop the necessary skills to teach English to others.

1. While formal training in teaching is generally not required, successful ETA grantees have exhibited a strong interest in teaching and learning through their classroom behavior and/or in extracurricular activities, jobs, or volunteer work, and/or community service projects. In your view, how has this candidate demonstrated qualities associated with teaching or mentoring?

Lindsay is currently a student in the teacher licensure program at St. Olaf College. Upon completion of her student teaching, she will be granted a K-12 ESL teaching license from the state of Minnesota. Her work in the department thus far has been outstanding. She has sought out numerous opportunities to work in educational settings and has gained valuable experience. She has consistently demonstrated desirable qualities for a professional educator.

1. Keeping in mind that an ETA’s specific job description at the placement abroad may not be clearly defined, describe the candidate’s abilities relative to working in unstructured situations. Feel free to give a specific example.

Lindsay was hired as an instructor for the Exploration School in 2013. She consulted with me regarding her lesson planning as she was given little guidance regarding curriculum. Basically, she was given a “green light” to approach her lessons as she wished. She shared multiple ideas with me and cleared them with her supervisors. She approached this ambiguity with a very positive attitude and generated many creative ideas. I have no concerns.

1. Comment on how the candidate might interact with students, faculty and, community leaders, among others in an unfamiliar situation or different cultural environment. Feel free to describe a situation where you have observed the candidate in these circumstances. What kind of impression, in your view, would the candidate make abroad as a representative of the United States?

Lindsay participated in a unique immersion learning opportunity when she was a first year student. The January term course placed her as an intern at Anderson Community School in the Phillips Neighborhood in Minneapolis for two weeks. Students were also housed in the neighborhood during the course. She was very successful in this unfamiliar environment and was entirely professional. She will make a very positive representative of the United States.

1. Please comment on any other factors, which you believe may have a bearing on the candidate’s experience overseas or potential as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant.

Lindsay recently returned from a semester studying in El Salvador. Upon return, she wrote to me and shared her thoughts on the experience. Her reflections demonstrated an ability to be both fully present to all that she was experiencing as a student in a foreign country, and also remain keenly aware of her need to observe herself and process the experience as she navigated multiple settings. She is self-aware, mature, and humble enough to appreciate her role as a guest n another culture. She will have no difficulty with the language or with acculturation. She is a highly motivated young educator.