

# Christopher Palasz

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Dear Interested Party,

I know I'm putting my best foot forward by centering my life on education and writing related pursuits. I have always loved writing. The journey to discovering a passion for education was triggered first by my personal discovery of the depths of joy brought by diversity. The logical next step has been bringing them together.

Coming from a suburb roughly one hour west of Chicago and growing up in a city that is dominantly white, I hadn't encountered strong racial or ideological diversity in life until experiencing great diversity at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I was so enthralled, I became a member of a Korean church, studied in the Black Gospel Choir, and participated in the Wushu Kung Fu Club and The Navigators organization. The seeds of curiosity grew as well as ambitions to travel the world while continuing to learn and discover. English rhetoric fit with my strengths and became a means to a path I wanted to always pursue.

Through writing and rhetoric I am a word smith, hammering and refining sentences and compositions that strike form according to the needs of a reader I seek to engage. When I write or teach, I want to produce and deliver something that I can be proud of and which elevates my students and colleagues, performing to the best of my ability within the constraints of time and tools at my disposal. For example, I write technical articles in my spare time purely out of interest in the topic, but am no expert. I'm resourceful. To succeed, I rely on diligent research and insight from those more qualified than I to speak in my place.

Over the past years, as I worked full time jobs teaching at Universities in Korea and China while also completing my Master's degree in English Rhetoric, Writing, and Digital Media Studies, I have actively applied my studies to the workplace and it has enriched both experiences immeasurably. I was able to interview colleagues at Sun Yat-sen University in China and gain insight into the wealth of practices and methods used by Chinese instructors of English writing while also gaining insight into the needs and habits of Chinese students. As a result, I created a 15-page Teaching Resource Guide so that new instructors at SYSU can have a useful guide full of teaching methods and digital tools to use. As an assistant professor in Korea, I created a card game to help simulate and elicit authentic conversation from my students which they enjoyed.

Being in a difficult or unfamiliar situation where I'm challenged to use my strengths and assets to contribute and really make a difference is not only where I desire to be, it's where I thrive.

I look forward to the possibility of getting involved in any opportunity where I can contribute and make a positive impact in the lives of others while also being able to learn and grow from experienced colleagues who foster a professional and mutually beneficial environment.

You are invited to contact me by through e-mail, Telegram, or my website. Let me know if any questions arise. Thank you very much for taking the time to read about my journey and passion.

Best Regards,

Christopher Palasz