Statement of Justification

I would like to request a reimbursement for five study guides that I have purchased, three for the Graduate Record Examination General Test and two for the Graduate Record Examination Subject Test for Literature in English.

At the start of my senior year in college, I changed my major from Accounting to English literature. As difficult as it is for me to admit, accounting was not my forte. Despite tutoring, intensive studying and receiving additional help, I could not grasp its concepts. It was difficult to realize that even my best in the subject was not good enough.

For that reason, I decided that it was better to analyze my strengths and attempt to build an education around the specific courses in which I excelled. I chose English literature because, not only had I been successful in the few courses I had taken, but I genuinely found the subject extremely interesting. For me, the ideal profession was always that of a satirical essayist and, as one of my professors always says, “You can’t write if you don’t read.” Therefore, English literature seemed like the best choice.

That having been said, I am still an extremely ambitious person when it comes to the acquisition of knowledge and exercise of one’s artistic talents. I have written for the school magazine, contributed to blogs, write my own fiction, and have also gained experience in applying my communication skills in a business environment through my internship with the New York City Housing Authority. I hope that all these activities and my studies provide me with the intense discipline and training required to pursue the highest level of knowledge in English literature. In short, I have decided that I will not pursue success; instead, I will pursue excellence and, hopefully, success will follow.

Achieving a doctoral degree in English Literature will not be an easy task. According to recent surveys, most people take anywhere from five to nine years following undergraduate school to achieve this goal. My desire, however, is to be a renowned expert in the field of post-colonial literature. The
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first step towards becoming such an expert, however, is to acquire a Master’s degree. The most respected programs for English literature throughout the country require high scores on the GRE General test and the GRE Subject test for English literature. The materials I have purchased are quintessential for a decent performance in these exams. I study well in environments that I can structure to fit my academic style and needs. I thus chose to study using these books instead of opting for a course. I believe this will better allow me to understand the information and ultimately achieve a higher score on the exams.

I realize that senior year is a rather late time to change one’s major, but I genuinely feel that this is the field of study that is most suited for me. I have done exceedingly well in my related courses and I enjoy this subject more than any other. Also, by extending my graduation plans by one year, I can take all the steps that are required of those who intend to pursue graduate education. I plan on taking the GRE exams this fall and am also researching topics for an Honors thesis in my senior year.

Thank you for considering my application. I have included individual descriptions of the items purchased so that the committee may better judge the value of purchasing these books. They are from reputable companies and include everything from study guides to practice exams, both of which will prove invaluable in studying for the exams. I also wish to inform you that the name on the credit card used to purchase the items is my sister’s because I do not have a credit and I intend to repay her for these materials.

Sincerely,

Baruch College