

Good morning Hal,

This will be easy, because I honestly think you did a great job with me.

I think the central point to be a professor is to be able to teach ( this is not as obvious as it seems ... ), that is to say to be a pedagogue. Unfortunately, this isn't a skill that can be taught ( maybe it could be in another educational system ). Simplifying a little, I would say "you have it or not". And I think you have it, whereas even a large part of the experienced professors do not.

A second very important point to be a good teacher is the ability to create a nice contact with students, so that they feel confident, and dare asking questions. I think you have this skill too. This may also seem obvious, but it isn't, a good deal of professors make students feel stupid when they ask, or just uncomfortable. And when the contact is lost, the interest of the student in the lecture decreases sharply ...

I don't write this to polish your boots ( I don't know if this expression exists in English, but I think you see what I mean ), I have no interest in it. I just sincerely think you have the fiber to be a great teacher.

If I had seen some flaws, I would have pointed it out, it could have been constructive, but for what I have seen, everything was good : you were available, you helped me out with any problem I had, you gave me some very good advice for a blackboard presentation ( which I had no experience with )... And the subject was very interesting !  
It was a real pleasure to me :)

Don't hesitate to tell me if you need some adds, or if I have to make it more formal, or if you want me to develop some points, like the reasons I think you are a pedagogue, etc...

Otherwise, good luck !

Bests, Bertrand Jayles

Hello Hal,

Thanks for your previous mail, I appreciate your feed back.

So now my turn.

Please comment on any aspect of your mentor's effectiveness. In particular: what was particularly useful to you and where the mentoring could have been most improved :

As I said it was very nice working with you, you have the teachers spirit.

I could report one point to improve. When you are away and very busy, you could answer mails by saying something quick like " Got your email, very busy here I will answer you properly later .." So we know that you've got the email. Because at some point I was wondering if you actually got my mail because sometimes, some get lost in the internet continuum. It's when I asked Bertrand if he had any news from you that we realised that you were too busy to answer. But I know it's not always possible when travelling.

What was particularly useful where all your questions especially the ones after the pre-presentation, the ones on the points you felt I wasn't comfortable with. First, because it made me realise that I wasn't comfortable with them and secondly because we were able to clear them.

Have a good week.

Bests,

Louis

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