



## **East Brunswick High School**

The purpose of this letter is to express my gratitude and to endorse Mr. Greg Serian as an exceptional guest speaker on the topic of the Armenian genocide. As a teacher of an elective course entitled *Genocide in the Modern World*, I understand that educating teenagers about genocide, human rights and justice are crucial in today's world. I have also found that teaching about the Armenian genocide can be enormously challenging in that it is an historical event that happened one hundred years ago in a place where few students understand the history and culture. While the Armenian genocide is an enormously important topic, making it meaningful, relevant and accessible to contemporary students can be quite challenging. Fortunately, Greg Serian excels in this challenge.

Greg Serian is a well-versed and impassioned speaker who communicates effectively with teenagers. His presentation demonstrated a wealth of knowledge on the subject, and was replete with highly impacting visual materials, which effectively complimented the narrative. Where Mr. Serian truly excelled, however, was in making the material relevant to today. Not only did he provide the history, context and details of the Armenian genocide, but he personalized and connected this history with the highly emotional and memorable narrative of his own grandmother's tragedy and survival during the genocide. He further elaborated on how this event affected not only his own family, but the entire Armenian community who continues to this day to feel the impact of this horror.

Through his story, students transcended the "history," and experienced the true human impact of genocide. The Armenian genocide was no longer some "hundred-year-old historical tragedy," but a relevant political issue that reverberates and has real consequences in 2016. Mr. Serian not only detailed the events of the Armenian genocide and personalized it with this family story, but he successfully related the importance of modern day

activism in the face of one hundred years of denial and evasion of justice. Through his presentation, the Armenian genocide became a relevant, contemporary issue which truly provoked students.

Mr. Serian's presentation clearly succeeded in the challenge of keeping a teenage audience in full attention as demonstrated in the lengthy Q & A session wherein students bombarded him with follow-up questions.

Numerous students stayed behind after the presentation to discuss issues and gain further insights. Such attention is truly a testament to his passion and effectiveness as a presenter.

In summary, Mr. Greg Serian's presentation on the Armenian genocide is a superb method to teach your students everything about the Armenian genocide, or a great tool to effectively reinforce your own teaching of the subject. Either way, your students will receive an engaging and memorable presentation which will expose the horrors of the past and provoke activism in the present.

It is without reservation that I highly recommend Mr. Greg Serian as a guest speaker in your school district. Guest speakers on the Armenian genocide are difficult to find, and I am certain that Mr. Serian will positively contribute to your pedagogical goals.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me at [rgangi@ebnet.org](mailto:rgangi@ebnet.org).

Sincerely,

Robert Gangi

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High School  
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