



OnPoint Prize for Excellence in Education Educator of the Year **Sample Nomination Excerpt**

This sample nomination excerpt is intended to illustrate how a compelling nomination might be organized. Nomination materials are welcome in the format that best illustrates the strengths and unique skills of the teacher. Please review the acceptable file types and tips for success at: <https://www.onpointprize.com/EOTYguidelines>

Excerpt includes:

- Strong letters of recommendation
- A brief statement of educational philosophy unique to the nominee
- Portfolio including:
 - A variety of engaging lessons
 - Photo montage of finished projects
 - Examples of the nominee's leadership through extracurricular activities
 - Essay questions addressing nominee's strengths as an educator and referring to the lessons and photos provided

Notes:

- For brevity, parts of this nomination were omitted, including parent letters of support and a video of student performances.
- There is no requirement for length of responses or number of examples. The nomination should help the OnPoint Prize Selection Committee get to know the educator and understand his/her impact.
- This nomination was organized by parents who worked with school staff and student families to collect the materials presented.
- During evaluation, the OnPoint Prize Selection Committee noted that the materials provided made a strong case for the nominee's creative facilitation, ability to foster a safe environment for risk taking, and her focus on the cultivation of student voices in all aspects learning.
- These examples are available for review and should not be duplicated.

“Find a job you enjoy doing, and you will never have to work a day in your life.” According to this adage from Mark Twain I have not had to work for the past twenty-three years because I enjoy what I do. My name is Lionel Clegg and I am an educator. I am a first grade teacher at Woodlawn Elementary School located in Northeast Portland. Throughout my tenure at Woodlawn I have taught on the first, second and third grade levels. I have served in various capacities in the school from the Parent-Family Involvement Coordinator to leading Boys of Distinction, a mentoring program I created for boys at the school in grades 3-5. I mentored student interns and beginning teachers. I have helped my peer teachers with instruction and classroom management. There have been occasions when my principal was not on campus and I was given the charge to help with issues that arose during his absence.

Being a teacher at Woodlawn is very special to me because I also attended this school as an elementary student. I grew up in the Woodlawn neighborhood and still reside there today. I recognize the importance of having teachers who care about you and strong parental support.

Outside of my school, for the past twenty years I have worked for Self Enhancement Inc. (SEI) during the summer. Working at SEI gives me the chance to work with students in the community who may not attend Woodlawn. I have also worked with The Black Parent Initiative (BPI) where I taught a parenting class called Nurturing & Navigating Your Child’s Education. In this class, parents learned how to better support their children academically. I began teaching parents because I found that no matter how successful I was with the children in my classroom, the same level of rigor and support needed to be reinforced at home. When educators and parents work together, students are more successful both in and out of the class.

Woodlawn also has a Sunschoo! program where many students stay after school to do homework, enrichment activities and other classes around the interest of the students. I have tutored and taught African American History for many years for Sunschoo!. This class is open to all students who want to learn more about African American history. It is my goal to teach them about African American culture and promote the desire to learn more on their own. I also encourage them to learn about other cultures so they will begin to appreciate and respect different perspectives and values.

It is important for every student to have a strong educational foundation and it is for that reason that I have chosen to teach at the primary level. While my expectations are high and at times that may be a challenge for some, I will always be there to help support and encourage my students. I want to build critical learners and thinkers. I strive to build a safe and structured environment for students to learn and grow. For me, the safety is not only in their feeling free to ask or answer questions without judgement, but also in knowing that I am there for them when they need me.

I believe that every kid has the potential to grow and oftentimes feel that we do not push our kids to the levels they can achieve only because we assume they are not ready. I know that we can teach our kids to build a rocket as long as we put the information in a way that makes sense to them. So I allow my students to determine what their limits are. The way that I appraise my students' understanding of things that I teach them is seeing how well they can teach or explain this to someone else. I don't want them to just know the answer, I need them to also know why this is the answer and be ready to defend and explain their understandings to someone else who may have a different opinion.

This year dealing with the pandemic has caused me to become very creative and resourceful as a teacher. Though the physical school building was closed, the learning nor my expectations for my students to learn never stopped. We meet for classes each day and I hold small group instruction for students who need additional help. My students still have to participate in the class discussions and complete assignments. After our daily lessons I hold a class meeting to check-in on everyone. The class meetings give each child an opportunity to share how they are doing, because learning virtually is just as challenging as teaching virtually. This year, more than ever I am learning to monitor and adjust. I have to develop lessons that are interactive and engaging for my students. I have learned how to use and incorporate programs such as Zoom, Nearpod, Google Spreadsheets and Docs. Since going back to in-person learning, the time I spent teaching virtually has provided me with more tools that I can use for my students in my classroom.

During the past two years KGW has followed the lives of Woodlawn's students and teachers in a series called Inside Woodlawn. I had the opportunity to be featured on several of the segments. During this time I was given the opportunity to voice areas of strengths and weaknesses for our students and the profession as I saw it. In the episode titled "No Time to Waste" I was able to speak as an advocate for equality for students and education. From this series I was honored by being selected to appear on the nationally syndicated Today Show on a segment on education with Craig Melvin on February 18, 2021. I was able to use this platform to talk about my experience as a Black male educator.

For me teaching is not a job, it is my purpose. I am an advocate for all students, not just the ones in my classroom. Every time I think of the role that I play in the lives of children I think of the awesomeness of this duty. I have had students that have experienced things that are unimaginable and some have been beaten and broken down at such an early age but I have been given the opportunity to help shape and change their lives. Each day I interact with my students is another day that I can help build a child into a strong woman or man. This is a job that I do not take lightly. It goes beyond the classroom setting. I want my students to become the best they can be and lead productive and successful lives. As a teacher, part of the impact that I want to

April 8, 2021

Re: Lionel Clegg, Nominee for K-5 Teacher of the Year

Dear OnPointe Prize for Excellence in Education Selection Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Mr. Lionel Clegg for the K-5 OnPointe Educator of the Year. Mr. Clegg is my daughter's First Grade Teacher at Woodlawn Elementary School in Northeast Portland. Teaching is more than knowing and sharing content, the art of teaching exposes the teacher as a person. The pandemic provides an opportunity for parents to observe this exposure and to get to see teachers in action like never before. I have been impressed with all facets of Mr. Clegg's presence as an educator and as a person- his authenticity, his energy, his relatability, and the curriculum that creates his classroom community. I will write this letter based on my experience with Mr. Clegg during my four years as a parent at Woodlawn Elementary School and based on my experience with him as a teacher during this school year.

Mr. Clegg inspires creativity and enthusiasm in the classroom. In the online environment, the kids may be missing their physical classroom but the students have a classroom community all the same. They start each morning with music and conversation. The voice I hear leading class sessions from my upstairs hallway is enthusiastic and engaging in the online environment in a way that is hard to replicate, especially with first graders. The way he speaks with the students is a mixture of discipline and explanation, encouragement and passion. One morning, I overheard Mr. Clegg say "You are all teachers. You teach each other and you teach me." He is relating to his students while at the same time empowering them. He provides the students with the structure needed in first grade but encourages creativity within that structure. For Example, the students are invited to give presentations. First graders need structure and guidance however, Mr. Clegg still encourages his students to get creative and make it their own. My first grader had the opportunity to prepare and present on a special person for both Black History Month and Woman's History Month, and Mr. Clegg met with her to go over her ideas before the presentation. Both assignments were challenging and engaging, but the lasting impression was empowerment for my daughter.

Mr. Clegg demonstrates exemplary teaching methods and style. His style emphasizes class community and empowerment of the students. Mr. Clegg has the ability to balance the classroom where students have a wide range of abilities and work ethics. He excels at meeting students where they are in their learning journey and strives to push students to be their best. He has all of the students work at their own level and meets them both as a whole class and meets them in leveled groups. Just because a first grader may not be ready to master reading or the tens place in math, does not mean they have lower expectations. Mr. Clegg expects all students to do their best with a growth mindset and this style will set them up for success. Mr. Clegg has been a mentor to many in his 23 years and has student teachers in this classroom every school year because of his organized teaching style. One of his successful student teachers, was hired at Woodlawn and taught my son in first grade. In the years that Mr. Clegg has been teaching, the school community has weathered changes related to gentrification in Portland. Through my lenses, I observe Mr. Clegg is a keeper of equitable teaching practices that some newer

Woodlawn community members may wish to change. I am humbled by his teaching abilities paired with his tenacity to hold true to his beliefs about teaching in the Woodlawn community.

Mr Clegg has a significant impact on students, parents, peers, and the Woodlawn Community. Mr. Clegg is a true steward of Woodlawn Elementary and the Woodlawn Neighborhood. Mr. Clegg even attended Woodlawn as a student. I will give a couple examples of his impact that I have observed during my short time at Woodlawn. In February, 2021, he hosted a Woodlawn History Night for our school community. People from the neighborhood came together to talk about their experiences when they were at our school. Some of the speakers attended Woodlawn Elementary School 60 plus years ago and connections were formed through the decades of Woodlawn families. Another fine example, is his work with the Careers on Wheels event. First grade is a year that the Portland Public Social Studies Curriculum focuses on the neighborhood community we live in. Before the pandemic, Woodlawn was planning their second annual Careers on Wheels assembly (inspired by Vanessa Ellison from the City of Denton, TX) that was intended to take place in May, 2020. Mr. Clegg served as an advisor in the planning of this event and was an enthusiastic supporter of the first annual event during 2019. The 2019 event brought local workers — and the vehicles they use at work — to our school to celebrate the amazing jobs available in our community. Mr Clegg received national attention when he was featured on the Today Show on January, 18, 2021 and he has received attention locally on the #Inside Woodlawn special on KGW news. His willingness to be publicly on display with KGW and discuss gentrification in Portland and our School community is inspiring.

Mr. Clegg demonstrates diversity, equity and inclusion in the first grade classroom, at Woodlawn Elementary and in Portland as a whole. Woodlawn Elementary students learn that Woodlawn is “No Place for Hate” and that Black Lives Matter. Diversity is celebrated in Mr. Clegg’s classroom every day. The students started the first month of school learning about an influential LatinX person each day. The new year started by learning a different African American person each day and in March they focused on influential women from history, one each day. Next month, the class is learning about a different Pacific Islander each day. My first grader is deeply inspired by these lessons and I imagine the depth of appreciation for diversity is created in all of the first graders. As I mentioned above, the #Inside Woodlawn special on KGW (<https://www.kgw.com/inside-woodlawn>) dives head-first into gentrification and racism and Mr. Clegg has been highlighted there. He has a talent for talking openly about these topics in a child centered way to his first-grade classroom. I am learning from Mr. Clegg that we can teach our kids about topics such as racism in ways that are developmentally appropriate and that we can have open conversations in our home by using classroom conversations as a springboard.

In summary, Mr. Clegg should be recognized for his decades of time and talent at Woodlawn Elementary School. He illustrates all of the criteria for this award as described above. This award recognition would be an appreciated and deserved honor for Mr. Clegg, Woodlawn Elementary School, the Woodlawn Neighborhood and to NE Portland in its entirety.

Sincerely,



Rebecca A. Hillary, PhD
Parent, Community Member, Educator



March 12, 2021

Dear OnPoint Prize for Excellence in Education Selection Committee,

Please accept this letter in support of Lionel Clegg's candidacy for the OnPoint Prize for Excellence in Education award. This extraordinary year of Comprehensive Distance Learning requires an extraordinarily Excellent Teacher, and Lionel Clegg is the educator and individual for the title recognition. Lionel is an outstanding professional with an exemplary dedication to elementary education and one who engages in the continual work of being a visionary leader for his students, families, and colleagues.

The Covid-19 crisis presented challenges for many schools: move to an online instructional platform and engage families in this new environment. Educators were asked to adapt to change quickly and on a very short timeline. Lionel successfully met both sets of challenges: his innovative work creating a culturally responsive online classroom and his persistence in communicating with families in an ongoing and predictable way allowed Lionel to stay in relationship and close partnership with students and families. Lionel's ability to maintain and grow relationships in the virtual environment with students has made all the difference.

Lionel's unwavering commitment to teaching his young students the history of BIPOC leaders and innovators is not new to his practice. He integrates these lessons about often marginalized and historically underserved people into his morning meetings and has adapted a few months of calendar pieces to highlight leaders whose efforts and actions reflect "Si se, puede!" and that Black Lives Matter. It's always amazing to have the opportunity to hear his students, 6 year olds, lift their voices to talk about Ida B. Wells and Malcolm X for example. His students remember these lessons clear through their time at Woodlawn.

Lionel has often told me that he is a teacher to all of the students at Woodlawn and that he continues to be a teacher to students even when they age out of elementary school. Lionel never shies away from a difficult conversation, a redirection or reteaching, or a chance to "teach" students of all ages. Every year, Lionel has former students return to volunteer in his classroom and they are eager to share what they

remember and will often seek him out for advice. At this stage of his teaching career, he is teaching the children of former students and he is proud to talk about how the parent was as a student, the same as the parent who is proud to have been in Mr. Clegg's class.

Mr. Clegg is a warm-demander and his students want to perform and participate. His online classes are well attended because he has created a safe learning environment for his students. He has set high expectations for each of his students and he provides the individual support each student needs to rise to the challenge and reach the goal. Lionel models his expectations and approaches every moment as a teaching and learning moment. He listens to his students' responses and questions and treats them respectfully by honoring their ideas and answering even the most basic questions. In the CDL environment, Lionel responds to each and every item that students submit with praise, an offer of thanks and both constructive comments as well as extension ideas. Students in Lionel's class feel appreciated and validated in their learning.

Lionel celebrates every student's accomplishment at the end of each session. It is the warm acknowledgement we all need!

A different twist to the past year and a half has been the #InsideWoodlawn series produced by KGW Portland. In this almost two-year partnership, the reporter and photojournalist have spent many hours in and around Woodlawn, speaking to staff, students and families. If you haven't had the chance to view any of these segments, I encourage you to and to listen to Lionel speak about his "Why" and his commitment to students. This past February, he and his teaching partner were highlighted on the Today Show's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day episode.

Thank you for your consideration of Lionel Clegg for the OnPoint Prize for Excellence in Education. Woodlawn School enthusiastically supports his nomination. I am happy to speak with anyone who needs more information.

Respectfully,
Andrea Porter-Lopez, Principal
Woodlawn Wildcat
pps.net/woodlawn

Anthony D. Lowery
Woodlawn School
7200 NE 11th Ave.
Portland, OR 97211

OnPoint Educator of the Year Committee

April 13, 2021

I met Lionel Clegg back in the spring of 2009 when I was just starting my teaching career as an undergraduate at Portland Community College Cascade Campus. PCC Cascade was the home of the former Portland Teachers Program, a program that Lionel and I were both members of. At that time I was an incoming freshman and he was an alumni that would be greatly involved with supporting the future educators in the program. As an undergraduate in a teaching preparation program you are often encouraged to spend as much time in the classroom as you can to observe different styles, methodologies and approaches to education as possible; and that's exactly what I did.

Many of the educators I observed were doing some amazing things in the classroom, but Mr. Clegg's class was the one that was most memorable. My first visit to Mr. Clegg's classroom was in the spring of 2009 and I arrived approximately 20 minutes before the students arrived. As the 28 students began to arrive, the first thing I noticed is that almost every student who walked through the doors of room 122 at Woodlawn School said, "Good morning!" The two that didn't speak these words, were asked to walk back out the door, re-enter and try it again. When Mr. Clegg asked the two students who didn't say good morning to, "Try it again", they knew exactly why. On the second attempt the students re-entered the room and both said "Good morning!" this time and proceeded on with their morning routine. This may seem like a small and punitive task, but as the day went on I would learn that almost everything Mr. Clegg is direct and intentional for a bigger outcome. Observing these first grade students enter the classroom was like watching adults clock in for work.

After the morning greetings, students continued to unpack their backpacks, put homework and folders in the correct places and began working on their morning work without saying a word. I had never seen such a well-managed classroom and was simply blown away at the level of energy, engagement and excitement that filled the classroom. Every student was having a lot of fun learning, while at the same time displaying a high level of respect, etiquette and responsibility. The atmosphere was so warm and welcoming and I knew right then and there this is how I wanted my classroom to run. Well, in 2014 I would get the opportunity to learn more about Mr. Clegg and his teaching style because I became a student teacher of his and in 2018 we became teaching partners in the first grade.

I've gotten to know Mr Clegg extremely well over the past 7 years, and I can honestly say he is one of the most committed, compassionate and knowledgeable educators I know. His commitment to education goes way beyond the classroom. Mr. Clegg is an educator of educators and every year supports at least two student teachers. I personally learned more

from Mr. Clegg than I did in graduate school. Prior to COVID Mr. Clegg also taught a parenting class through the Black Parents Initiative (BPI) for parents who want help supporting their students at home. He tutors students in SEI's Sun School after school program, is a member of the Portland Teacher Program Alumni Alliance that supports future educators and he teaches six weeks of summer school. In addition to this, he also opens his classroom at 7:30 a.m. every morning to allow parents to drop their kids off early who do not have daycare. Last but not least Mr. Clegg is a person that believes in embracing culture. He's not afraid to have hard conversations with the students about race. He always encourages students to be proud of who they are and to learn about other people's culture and race. During the different heritage months, Mr. Clegg always takes the opportunity to teach and learn about other races and cultures. Mr Clegg is an exemplary model of what excellence in education is and I believe he would be an excellent candidate to be the OnPoint educator of the year.

Regards,

Anthony D. Lowery

leave on my students is of their value and greatness. To teach is to change lives. My name is Lionel Clegg and I am an educator.

#1: Each day during Women's History Month my students learned about a woman who made an impact on the world in various areas such as politics, literature, art, and music. My students choose a person to research and present to the class. The first 2 PDFs are showing the calendar of the women we studied this year during Women's History Month and the presentation from one of my students on Naomi Osaka.

#2: Word Work is an activity that I created for my students to record themselves saying letter sounds and reading high frequency words. I always include a video of myself saying the sounds and words first so the students know how they should sound when they do the work. There are 3 pages but I differentiate the instruction and my kids read the list that is best suited for them to be successful. The links below are showing the lesson as my students received it, a sample of one of my students doing the work and finally the screenshot at the bottom shows the feedback that I provided for this student's efforts. I always talk about being distinct in my class and encourage my students to look for ways to stand out. I think that this child modeled that well!

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https://app.seesaw.me/pages/shared_item?item_id=item.36374b39-d274-4b83-92f2-56dfd001d4a6&share_token=3fwRX7TORgu2QT1-GNQARw&mode=share

♥ Lionel Clegg

💬 **Lionel Clegg** Abby, just like I said in class today, the more you practice, the better you get. You started off saying only the first sound of the vowels and then by the end of your 10th time, you said every letter sound perfectly! You are a leader in our class and I can't wait to see all of the great things you have to look forward to in your life! Keep it up Abby, you are really showing how distinct you are! [Edit](#) [Delete](#)

Lionel Clegg ▶ 0:00 / 0:27 🔊 ⋮

Lionel Clegg By the way, your work was perfect if I didn't mention that earlier!

Lionel Clegg ▶ 0:00 / 0:05 🔊 ⋮

♥ Liked 💬 Comment 🗨️ 📁

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#3: This is a preview to one episode of Inside Woodlawn "No Time to Waste". You can watch the entire episode on Youtube as well but it is about 23 minutes long and includes other colleagues at my school. The conversation is around diversity, education and equity during these times of protest for social justice.

<https://youtu.be/xW0uYuJ9z2g>

#4: Woodlawn School and the Woodlawn Neighborhood Association recently teamed up to present the history of the neighborhood. This was a collaborative effort between both groups to bring the families from the school and the neighborhood together while learning about the rich history of the neighborhood. I was given the privilege to emcee as well as an opportunity to present at the event. The third PDF is what I shared in my presentation and below is a copy of the recorded event.

 [zoom_0.mp4](#)

-The fourth PDF is the statement of my educational philosophy and the last PDF is a letter from one of my previous student teachers who I now have the privilege of teaching with at Woodlawn.

Naomi Osaka

The person I
am presenting
is Naomi
Osaka.



Naomi Osaka is known for being a Japanese tennis player. She is the first Japanese player to win the Grand Slam Singles by defeating Serena Williams. She was able to surpass Serena Williams as the highest-earning female athlete. She is known for her simplicity and shy nature.



Naomi Osaka was born on October 16, 1997 in Chūō-ku, Osaka, Japan. Now she is 23 years old.



During the time Naomi Osaka was born in 1997 Princess Diana died, Harry Potter was published, Jackie Robinson's #42 is retired and Dolly the sheep was cloned.



Naomi's has a small close knit family, Father – Leonard Maxime Francois, Mother – Tamaki Osaka, and Sister – Mari Osaka.



What makes Naomi Osaka special is that she is a great tennis player. Her father is from Haiti and her mother is from Japan. Naomi is half Haitian and half Japanese. This is rare to see in professional tennis players.



Naomi Osaka is the first Asian player to hold the top ranking in singles. She started playing professionally at age 14.



AO

SF

OSAKA v WILLIAMS HIGHLIGHTS

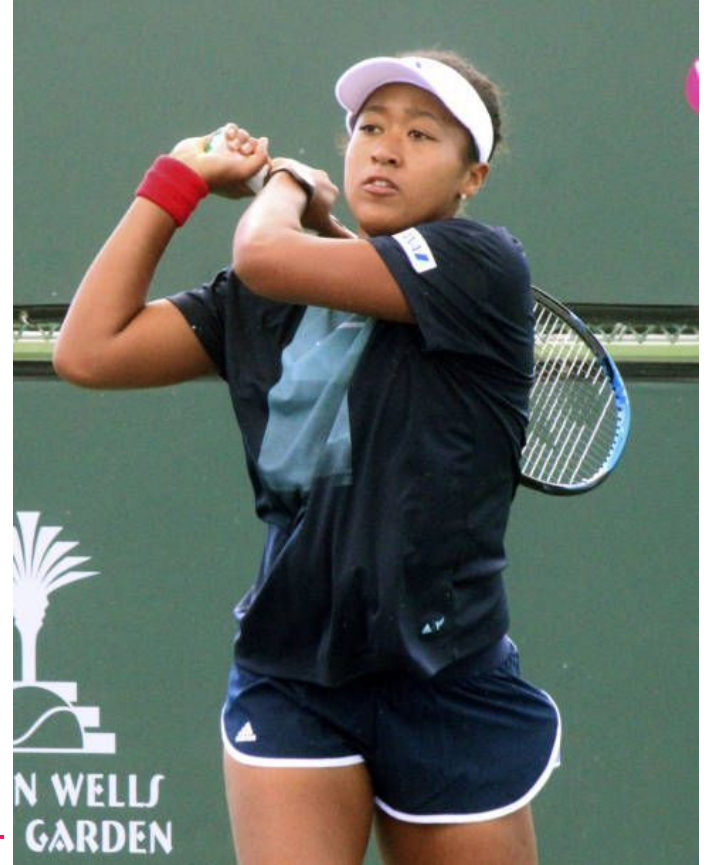


Naomi Osaka
showed bravery and
leadership through
being an activist
with Black Lives
Matter.





Right now, Naomi Osaka is training after winning the Australian Open.



I picked Naomi Osaka because
she is a tennis player and I am
too.



Thank you.