

New York, New York  
June 13, 1962

Mr. José Ferrater Mora  
Professor of Philosophy  
Bryn Mawr College  
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Ferrater Mora,

I feel that I owe you a reciprocal apology for having written a paper that was less interesting and readable than I had hoped it would be. Ortega, as a subject of study, offers a wealth of ideas; and he did indeed seduce me, as you noted. My failure to recapture and reproduce my deep feeling for his writing, I attribute partly to being rushed in writing the paper, and partly to my tense and overly factual exam-time frame of mind, which always bodes ill for creative endeavors. But I refuse to despair simply because my paper was a minor academic failure; I have become too fond of Ortega to let my first blundering attempt at writing about him dampen my interest in his writing.

Allow me to correct your mistaken impression that I am leaving Bryn Mawr because I am disappointed in the philosophy department. Really, nothing could be less true. If anything could persuade me to stay at Bryn Mawr, it would be my sincere hesitancy to leave behind your department, and because I value your "philosophic instruction" much too highly to give it up forever. I plan to return to Bryn Mawr for my senior year and to graduate as a philosophy major. There are many things about Bryn Mawr that I dislike intensely, but the philosophy department is one thing that I like tremendously.

Again, as the subject of the philosophy department, I want to tell you how much I enjoyed both of the courses that I took with you this past year. Your lively and interesting instruction has been the main factor in my deciding to be a philosophy major. You have the very rare gift of being able to excite in your students a real interest in philosophy. I don't know exactly how you manage to do it, but I would guess that part of your talent comes from the happy combination of your refreshing sense of humor and your impressive erudition, both of which are irrepressible and totally complementary. I am also inclined to believe that your interest is contagious. Of course, you may not really be interested in philosophy at all, but if you aren't, you are pretending very well.

I hope that your summer is a pleasant one.

Sincerely,

[Signatura]