Why Did You Write this Letter of Recommendation?

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Why Did You Write this Letter of Recommendation?

You don’t know me outside of the office or class
You could not possibly taste all that I am
You take my mask at face value
Type into your formatted style
And write your letter on sad letterhead
You see the smile
Not the home life
You received my Christmas cards
Not my opinions
You asked me for a list of my qualities
You don’t care for my direction
I’ll just ask for a correction
You’ll just spell my name wrong again
You know my hair color and you’ve seen my eyes
But not me, not my dreams
The way I dress and my promptness is calculated
This is how your lines are stimulated
Write your perception and lies
Hurry and sign it
Go about your day
Shake my hand and hold your breath for the phone call
When you will say
That I was great
That I was helpful
and quick to learn
Courteous and careful
And if I get the position
I will write you a letter
One of gratitude and
Reciprocal plasticity

--Jillian Olsen