



To Whom It May Concern:

James Houston Turner was kind enough to visit Concord High school in October of 2012. My students were familiar with Mr. Turner because of his 'Team Talanov' national teen writing competition. Many of our students participated, with one student noted as a finalist in the competition. As a school, we were all very proud of her.

Mr. Turner gave a thirty-minute talk that turned in to an hour because of the large number of student questions. He then stayed in for another hour so that students could speak with him one-on-one. He shared stories from his journey toward becoming a published author, which included his being rejected for a customer service job for being 'too ugly.' His lesson was to never let dreams die and keep working, no matter what obstacles are encountered. That's exactly what teenagers need to survive high school and beyond today. Too often their goals and dreams are squashed by an insensitive comment, a bad grade, or other struggles. His talk was not only inspiring for the future authors, but anyone with a life ambition. His visit made a great impact on our students and we look forward to his next visit.

Best,

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