

Forensic Entomologist (Client)

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FOR LON MAXWELL (Forensic Entomologist)

Your name is Lonnie Maxwell. Through numerous political connections, you have been named to the National Academy of Sciences. But there is a problem. You have to pass a rather basic level calculus examination, which will be administered by a panel of other academy members three months from today. You sailed through all of the other preliminary tests (you did take a few basic science courses in college). The problem is that you have never taken calculus and have a life-long fear of all things mathematical.

You have become a very well-known scientist of sorts. You have been a police officer for years, but five years ago you took a correspondence course to get your master's degree in the study of insects. You had decided to pursue formal bug studies because of a rather unusual niche you had developed within the police department. Using an uncanny ability you developed through years of practice, you were able to train bees to sniff out a wide variety of illicit drugs. You instantly transformed yourself (a metamorphosis really) into a forensic entomologist. Your work has become legendary, and now you have the appointment to the NAS to prove it. Except you have this math exam.

Your aunt has a friend in the math department at a local college, and she has already arranged for her friend to tutor you in calculus so that you can pass this exam. Her name is Roma Neejan, and she sounds like the perfect candidate – mostly because she seems to know the subject matter and you are running out of time. With the exam coming up soon, you want to get started immediately. You have no other possible tutors and are too embarrassed to cold call math departments looking for help. You may want to confirm that she is at least qualified to teach calculus, however.

Because of the serious nature of this matter, you have already hired an attorney to negotiate the arrangement with Neejan. Your aunt was surprised to learn that legal counsel would be involved, and even more surprised to hear that Neejan had also retained an attorney to handle the negotiations.

You want to make sure that the professor understands exactly what is required. You need to pass this test. Neejan will have to put together a lesson plan for you, with timetables and clear outcomes so that you can approve the course development (and make sure that she is really working on this).

You are willing to pay her whatever she requires. You have budgeted as much as \$5,000 to cover her fees and costs, but naturally you hope to spend much less. You also are a little nervous about paying too much too early – maybe you want to withhold something until after you pass your exam.

It is also important that she keep this engagement completely secret. You cannot afford a minor scandal erupting around your ignorance of math. You hope someday to join the academy and your credentials are already thin enough.

Before you meet with your attorney, carefully consider what you are looking for in this deal. You are investing your time and treasure in this attorney, and you might as well get your money's worth. Explain to your attorney that you do not need a full written agreement at this point. Feel free to share whatever information you feel is necessary (without showing anyone this page). You understand that today's meeting is just the preliminary stage to begin the discussions. You might not get a deal done today, but you hope to make good progress. Bottom line is that you would like to secure this deal fairly soon. You do not have any other options and you cannot learn calculus on your own in the relatively short time frame before the test.