

“Inventing Four Aspects of My Local Argument”

1. Situation: Write your situation statement here.

As a graduate of Indiana University at Bloomington, I am writing to my nephew Frank, a senior in high school here in South Bend. Frank is trying to decide if he should go to IU Bloomington or IU South Bend next year. Although he has not made up his mind, he is leaning toward IUSB. My ultimate goal is to encourage Frank to go to IUB, not IUSB, at least for his freshman year.

For the following questions, you don't need to write in complete sentences. Just jotting down phrases and ideas is fine. Try, though, to write down as much as possible.

2. Contextual: What do you know about your audience (values, hobbies, concerns, goals, attitudes toward topic, etc.)?

he likes to read, a lot (reads science fiction, philosophy, books about music, a wide variety of topics)

“self-directed” learner; does well on his own; does not like structure or format of high school classes

worked nights at SB Tribune this past summer; hated it (long hours; dirty, hard work, low pay)

not a big partier, not into stuff like the Little 500 at IU, would probably like all the music and book stores in Bloomington

likes a wide variety of movies: documentaries, foreign movies, action and sci-fi, etc

neither of his parents went to college (my sister, his mom, went to IUSB for one year, quit and got married—regrets her decision to this day)

he's very smart: ranked in top 5 in his senior class, an excellent writer and does very well in math (calculus, trig, etc)

isn't really into \$, fancy clothes, buys clothes at goodwill sometimes, sort of a “hippy”

3. Goal-Directed: What do you hope to accomplish? Think in terms of “frames of mind” and discrete, ultimate, explicit, and implicit goals.

show Frank I care about him and his future

show Frank I’m not trying to get him to “be like me”

show Frank how much Jon (a math prof in IL) likes his job; how much I like my job: freedom to pursue topics I am interested in; chance to work with talented, motivated students;

encourage him to study harder; encourage him to think not only 1 or 2 but 10 years ahead (ex: My undergrad vs grad school GPAs)

encourage him to realize that graduation and “life” are hitting him sooner than he thinks—
show him I once felt the same things

4. Supported: What are your experiences? Your reasons? Benefits to your perspective, stance? (You don’t have to break things down in terms of ethos, pathos, and logos, but consider those categories as general starting places or jumping off points.)

My regrets: wish I would have applied myself more as undergrad; wish I would have thought about grad school earlier; wish I would have known what to consider when choosing a college(what to look for, how to tell what profs are well-known, etc)

My grades and motivation in school—poor at first, but picked up

What my classes were like; especially large and small ones like L202 and L220

“do better than your parents” arguments

His interest in school—pursuing a topic that he picks and he cares about

being away from home is a good thing

dorm life (screwing around, throwing water balloons out of windows, stupid fun stuff; friends I made (friends from Chicago, Indy, Michigan, places I went (the quarries in Bloomington, trips to Indy, which is only 45 minutes away)

meeting people from diverse backgrounds, interests, etc

5. Multi-Sided: What are drawbacks to your position? What about weakness to your argument? Strengths on the “other side”?

it's not my place to butt in

IU Bloomington most likely has more “partiers” than IUSB, since IUSB's student population has more returning or older students, who may be more serious about their education than some of the students who go to IU (older students are usually paying for school themselves, they're working full time, etc).

I didn't like IU at first; I was very homesick my freshman year, it seemed far from home at first

Costs: a big factor! Ex: my student loans totaled about 10 grand; others I know get into the \$40s or \$50s (one person I know owes 100,000!)

Costs: Cheaper to live at home, in fact he could probably walk to IUSB on nice days and wouldn't even need a car, parking fees, gas \$, etc.