

Local Argument Essay Sample Situations, Possible Topics

Idea #1

Imagine that you have a friend who is currently a senior in high school in your hometown. He or she has already been accepted for admission to the University of Notre Dame. Your friend is considering attending ND but is also thinking about other schools as well. Your friend has some concerns about what it's like to be a student here. In a 4-6 page (double-spaced) argument, written as a letter, discuss your friend's decision with him or her, offering advice—in the form of claims and evidence—about the best course of action. What should your friend think and/or do about attending ND?

While planning, composing, and revising your argument, consider factors such as the following:

- Academic Challenges and Opportunities
- Campus Traditions
- Costs
- Diversity (cultural, ethnic, economic, religious, etc.)
- Dorm Life / Parietals
- Extracurricular Opportunities
- Faith
- Food, Meals
- What else?

To be clear, you are not required to address any or all of these factors in your argument. They are listed here largely as prompts to help your thinking—potential aspects or sections of your argument.

Idea #2

Imagine that Father Jenkins has initiated a new program on campus this year: To demonstrate Notre Dame's commitment to making the undergraduate experience the best it can be, Fr. Jenkins will arrange an hour-long meeting with one student per week, giving serious consideration to that student's point of view about an issue or problem on campus. To be chosen, the student must compose a letter to Fr. Jenkins, bringing his attention to the issue or problem. Fr. Jenkins will read the letter in advance of the meeting, where he will then discuss with the student—if he is moved by the letter's arguments—how the issue or problem should be addressed.