

Local Argument Essay Sample Situations, Possible Topics

Idea #1

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, 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

Father Jenkins, perhaps the most powerful person on campus, has initiated a new program on campus this year: To demonstrate Notre Dame's commitment to making the undergraduate experience the best it can possibly be, Fr. Jenkins will arrange a series of meetings with one student, giving serious consideration to that student's point of view about an issue or issues on campus. To be chosen, the student must compose a letter to Fr. Jenkins, bringing his attention to an important campus problem or campus issue. Fr. Jenkins will read the letter in advance of the meeting, where he will then discuss with the student—if he is convinced by the letter's arguments—how exactly and how soon the problem or issue should be addressed.