

## Selected Sample Local Argument Situations

*Some of the better topics/arguments I've seen in recent years . . . .*

**Situation:** As a former Burger King employee of one summer who had horrible experiences, I am writing to my younger sister Melissa, arguing that she should change her mind about getting a part-time job in the fast food industry over the summer and apply for something else. Although I only have one summer's experience, one summer of work at Burger King would be exactly the same experience she would encounter. Also, I worked shifts at both local Burger Kings where she would presumably work. Thus, my experiences are directly relevant to what my sister would likely experience. I hope to convince her that it would not be a beneficial experience and that she should apply for jobs strictly outside the fast food network.

**Situation:** As a former Marian High School state finalist varsity golfer and Academic All-State Honorable Mention for golf in the state of Indiana, I am writing a letter to the future captain of Marian's golf team, Adam, who is a senior at Marian High School. Having experienced varsity golf for four years, I am writing to Adam about the value and importance of practice on the short game. From reading my letter, I hope Adam will begin to appreciate his short game more by increasing practice on his short game and ultimately have the chance to compete at the state level.

**Situation:** Recently, it has become a tradition among the seniors on the Don Bosco cross country team to run in a marathon. It started my junior year with three seniors running in the Philadelphia Marathon. My friend and I continued this new tradition last year by running in the New Jersey Marathon. The class of 2009 needs at least two people to step up to the plate and continue this newborn tradition. I would like to convince two seniors on the cross country team to run in a marathon of their choice during their senior year. The stance of the intended audience is hesitant toward whether or not they wish to run in a marathon because of track seasons and the overwhelming distance of running 26.2 miles all at once.

**Situation:** As a high school student, I was a member of the marching band for all four years at Notre Dame High School for Boys in Niles, Illinois. A friend of mine, Sammy, is a senior at Notre Dame High School and he too is a member of the marching band. Sammy is extremely interested in attending Notre Dame, but uncertain of whether to participate in music activities in college. As a new member of the Band of the Fighting Irish, I want to explain the incredible experiences I have already experienced in an attempt to cement Sammy's decision to attend the University of Notre Dame and ultimately to join the Band of the Fighting Irish.

**Situation:** I am writing to Andrew, an eighth grader at my old junior high school. I am a friend and a mentor to Andrew, and we share an interest in the sport of running. From recent online conversations, I understand that Andrew has been feeling somewhat alone and disconnected this year. Although he loves running and has considerable talent already, Andrew has entertained the idea of switching to a “team” sport once he gets to high school. Drawing from my own experience of Classical Academy cross country, I hope to share with Andrew the advantages of joining the high school team which he may not realize from running individually in junior high. Ultimately, I want Andrew to stick with running in high school.

**Situation:** As a freshman swimmer at Notre Dame, I know what is best for my training. As such, I believe that I should stay at Notre Dame over the summer to continue swimming with my teammates. I am writing a letter to my parents, who are likely opposed to this for financial and personal reasons. Hopefully, if writing this letter to my parents proves successful, they will let me stay at Notre Dame over the summer to both continue swimming with my teammates and take my difficult second year classes ahead of time.

**Situation:** As a volunteer at Pegasus Therapeutic Riding in Greenwich, CT, I am writing a letter to a good friend, Sarah, to convince her to start volunteering at the organization. She wanted to get involved in a community service organization, but isn't sure what to do. She knows a lot about Pegasus from me, but isn't sure if working with disabled children is right for her. I want to tell her all of the benefits of volunteering at Pegasus and open her eyes to the benefits it has on the children. Ultimately, I hope she will begin volunteering with me.

**Situation:** As a graduate of Brebeuf Jesuit High School and an experienced 4 year football player there, I am writing to a good friend, John, who is an incoming freshman at Brebeuf this year. John is stuck in a predicament. He wants to play both football and soccer, but he knows that it is physically impossible to do so. Therefore, he needs to make an informed decision on which sport to play. I am hoping, through my experienced information, to persuade John to play football and become another member of the Brebeuf Football Family.

**Situation:** My friend Dustin is currently a senior at Saint Joseph's High School here in South Bend. He is presently conducting his college search and hopes to play baseball at the Division 1 level. As a current member of the University of Notre Dame baseball team and recent graduate of Saint Joseph's, I am writing to Dustin about my experience here at ND as a Division 1 baseball player. Through my letter, I hope to help Dustin gain a better understanding of what it means to play Division 1 college baseball.