

“Local” Essay: Common Problems

In no particular order:

- format: line spacing, margins, etc
- neglecting to include a salutation and a valediction: “Dear So and So” and “Sincerely,” or “Love,” “Regards,” or “Take care,” . . .

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In no particular order:

- jumping in to topic/issue too quickly (in intro)
 - Consider some sort of “warm up”: “It was great to see you last weekend at home, and I hope we can get together again soon. . . .”
 - Also, look at King’s “Letter” again.

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In no particular order:

- using a \$50 word/phrase when a \$5 word/phrase does just fine: “my academic endeavors” vs “my classes”
- writing in far too formal of a style: Ask yourself, “Would I really write this way to this person?” Strike a balance between too formal and too informal. Be respectful, be correct, but be real.

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In no particular order:

- missing transitions: also, additionally, for instance, for example, besides, nevertheless, however, etc. (Refer back to the sheet I passed out at the start of the term.)
- Persuasive vs Expressive Discourse: Are you trying to move your audience or just gripe?
- weak situation statements (too much, too little)

Situation Statement: Five Parts

Role/Qualifications:

1. Who are you in relation to topic and/or audience?
2. What's your experience with topic and/or audience?

Reader:

3. Who is intended audience?
4. What does audience think about issue *before* reading argument? What's audience's stance? (when feasible)

Purpose:

5. Ultimate Goal: What do you hope to accomplish?

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In no particular order:

- signing your first and last names when audience knows you already
- How about a title other than “Local Argument Essay”?
- Source(s) and/or Works Cited page: Where are they?