

Aspects of Argument: An Example for Review

When I taught at Ball State University in the 1990s, another professor, Dr. Francis Rippy, emailed the following argument to all of the faculty and staff in the English Department—about 75 people total. Her argument is used here with her permission. (Note: Dr. Rippy is a woman, not a man.) After reading Rippy's argument, answer the questions on the other sheet of paper. Also, try to find the *best* example for each category or question.

Dear Colleagues:

I like to ask you for money every ten days or so, so that you won't get out of the habit of supporting me.

St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital is going to put me in jail (in the Student Center Ballroom Thursday at 2:30 pm) unless I can raise \$500 in bail in the next three days—either in “real money” or in pledges. I always have very mixed reactions to such silly programs as this “Captured for Kids” one, in a cause that is always tragically serious. However, in a way I am just playing off my sense of privacy against a cause I really believe in—and I know what OUGHT to win out then. So if you want to give something to St. Jude's, please fill out the form I'm putting up for those three days in the mail room. Sign the front if you want to give cash or a check now (and put the check in my box, #62); sign the back if you want St. Jude's to bill you later.

As you probably know, St. Jude is the patron saint of lost causes and hopeless cases. In this case, St. Jude's is a hospital in Memphis for desperately ill children. It never turns such a child away, even if his or her family does not have the money to pay for treatment. And as a research hospital, it has made remarkable gains in certain fields, working with other researchers. When the hospital opened in 1962, a child who developed cancer had less than a 20% chance of surviving; now he or she has a better than 70% chance. Three years ago the chair of the St. Jude's immunology department won the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine.

I did all my graduate study in Tennessee, so I already knew about St. Jude's, but as I was telling Paul recently, David and I stumbled into a personal experience that doubly made believers of us, and that I shall remember as long as I live. It was Christmas Break, and we were driving our three rowdies down through Memphis to Fort Worth. We stopped at a large restaurant in Memphis. It was night, and we did not realize that the restaurant was next to St. Jude's until we noticed that our three were almost the only hooligans there, though there were many families with children--and that ours were almost the only children wolfing their dinners down—and that ours were among the few children with bushy heads of hair. And then we looked at the faces of the adults—the stricken faces of parents coming to terms with the possible but incredible and chronologically upside down deaths of their own children. We did not order dessert; we just gathered up our three and took them shamefacedly out of there. But I have never forgotten that supper, never seen so much concentrated apprehension in one place. If I can make that a little better, then I can be “sentenced, booked, fingerprinted, and mug-shot.”

Besides, the fundraisers say that if I can raise the \$500 in advance, I can ensure my “early release.” They never say what will happen to me if I cannot raise the money—but I am sure that some of my students would be delighted if it were life imprisonment for me!

Kind regards,

Francis Rippy

Aspects of Argument: Questions and Answers

1. Where, specifically, does Dr. Rippy's argument exemplify or utilize *arete*? Explain.
2. Where, specifically, does her argument exemplify or utilize *eunoia*? Explain.
3. Where, specifically, does her argument exemplify or utilize *phronesis*? Explain.
4. Where, specifically, does her argument exemplify or utilize "multi-sided"? Explain.
5. When Dr. Rippy uses the words "rowdies" and "hooligans" to describe her own children, how is this an example of an **implicit discrete goal**? How does it relate to her **ultimate goal**? Explain.
6. Where do you see a specific example of a *pathos* proof? Explain.
7. Where do you see a specific example of a *GASCAP* strategy? Explain.
8. Where do you see Dr. Rippy reasoning **inductively**? How does **STAR** apply?