

## Sample Global Argument Essay Situation Statements

*(Please note: The following situations will help you see the typical sorts of topics students write about for the Global Argument Essay. Although their quality varies, each of the following is at least reasonably strong.)*

### To Change the Game

**Situation:** As a former Division One lacrosse player who has competed in the competition for sixteen years of my life, I am writing a letter to the NCAA department of lacrosse. In the past few months, the NCAA has debated on changing the rules for lacrosse through adding a shot clock, changing substitution rules, and taking away possession shots. While they are taking these rules into consideration in hopes of possibly slowing the game down and reducing the scores of games, I believe these rules would negatively impact the game. I hope to convince the NCAA to keep the rules as they have always been by disregarding the new rules.

### If You Build It, They Will Stay

**Situation:** I have been an avid Minnesota Vikings fan my entire life and a taxpayer in the state of Minnesota. Currently, the team is in negotiations for a new stadium; their lease on the Metrodome expires at the end of this season. Multiple sites and funding plans have been discussed, including staying in downtown Minneapolis and moving to Arden Hills, a nearby suburb. The team has also discussed relocating to Los Angeles if a deal cannot get done. The state legislature will vote on the issue likely before the 2012 election. I am writing an open piece to Minnesotans that will appear in the Minneapolis newspaper *StarTribune*. I hope to convince them that the stadium should be built in Minneapolis with a certain amount of public funding, and to contact their local representatives.

### Is it Worth the Weight?

**Situation:** As a young teenage girl, I was influenced by the media to have a perfect body and, as a result, I lost way too much weight. I am writing to Seventeen magazine with the hope that the magazine will publish my letter as an article in the January issue for young girls to read nationwide. It will address the issue of going on a non-fat diet and losing a lot of weight as an adolescent. I will incorporate my personal health problems that were a consequence of my weight loss, as well as research by well-known health specialists, to convince my audience that going on a no-fat diet and losing a lot of weight at a young age is harmful to your health and proper development. My goal is to have the readers realize that trying to have a perfect body is not worth the negative health effects that could accompany a non-fat diet and substantial weight loss.

## An Argument for Liberty

**Situation:** As a teenager with not only a homosexual but married mother, I am writing to the conservative, and in some cases religious Notre Dame students that surround me in my section in [deleted by Clauss]. This argument is in the form of a letter to be distributed amongst them. Although I think one argument is not nearly sufficient to radically change any opinions on the subject, I do hope that my friends and acquaintances gain a better understanding of the situation based on a real world, first person experience and perspective.

[No Title Provided by Student]

**Situation:** As a former football player whose career was ended by concussions, I have experienced head injuries first hand. For decades players have been receiving concussions detrimental to their long-term health and only now is the National Football League taking steps to improve player safety in this area. I am writing a speech that will be read over South Bend's public radio station, WVPE. A diverse audience will hear this, and many of these people probably enjoy watching the NFL. However, most are also unaware as to how dire the situation with concussions is in the league. Therefore, I intend to educate the listeners as to the severity of the situation and convince them that suspending players for big hits and having teams play fewer games is the best way to improve the health of players.

## What Would Jesus Do?

**Situation:** As a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Salt Lake City, Utah, I am writing this letter to Bishop Wester and the Catholic Diocese of Utah. I address the fact that some of the fund raising proceeds go to assist people who have entered our country illegally. In recent years, the number of illegal immigrants living in the United States has increased greatly. Because of this, some members of our clergy are speaking out and taking actions that ignore the fact that these people are violating the laws of our country. I regularly receive pamphlets during mass asking for donations to this issue. My goal is to convince Bishop Wester and ultimately, the Catholic Diocese of Utah, to use contributions and services to assist citizens and legal immigrants and not to take positions or pursue actions which may encourage others to enter or remain in our country in violation of our nation's immigration laws.

## Why Our Schools Need Gym Class

**Situation:** As a college freshman concerned about the rising obesity rates in America, I'm writing an editorial to the *New York Times* concerning physical education in schools. I want this argument to reach all of the readers of the *New York Times*, but particularly the educators who read the paper. While many educators think physical activity is important, the emphasis in schools seems to be on raising test scores rather than lowering obesity rates. I want to convince readers that all grades, kindergarten through 12th, should have mandatory, daily PE class. It is my belief that the goals of raising test scores and lowering obesity rates are not incompatible.

## Wood or Aluminum? The Answer is Clear

**Situation:** As a recent graduate of McQuaid Jesuit High School in Rochester, NY and a former member of the varsity baseball team, I am writing a letter to the commissioners of Section V (my region of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association) about the merits of requiring wood bats to be used by all high school baseball teams instead of the current aluminum ones. There has been discussion lately about the switch because of the danger of sharp line drives coming off of aluminum bats that injure pitchers. Section V commissioners are currently undecided as to whether to institute this sweeping change. I hope to convince them that instituting a wooden bat rule would be beneficial in terms of improving quality of play, having a more economical alternative to aluminum bats, and causing fewer injuries.

## I B Supporting IB

**Situation:** As a former member of the International Baccalaureate program at Cathedral High School, I am writing a letter to the Cathedral Staff and Administration, who are considering entirely removing the IB program from the high school. Currently, the school has a budget that determines the amount of money that is dedicated to the program; however, due to the difficult economic times, the Administration and Staff are contemplating the removal of the IB program in hopes of saving money. In my argument, I would like to help them realize the benefits of the program and, ultimately, persuade them to uphold the funding that supports the IB program at Cathedral.

## College Degrees Travel Further Than Baseballs

**Situation:** As a baseball player at the University of Notre Dame, I am writing a letter to all high school baseball players who will be selected in the 2011 Major League Baseball Draft. I have been exposed to many opportunities of being a collegiate student-athlete, such as the chance to play college baseball while earning a degree. Although many of those I am writing to may have dreams of signing a large MLB contract, I would like to help them reassess their options. My ultimate goal is to influence these players that playing college baseball and getting an education is often a smarter choice than entering the MLB directly out of high school.

## A Word to the Wise

**Situation:** As a former student at Biotechnology High School (BTHS, in Freehold, NJ) in addition to a two-sport varsity athlete at my home high school, I am writing to the current freshmen at BTHS via the school newspaper *The Biohazard*, urging more students to participate in athletics for their respective home high schools. Most students are hesitant to branch out and play because of the large time constraint on top of their large workloads at BTHS. I hope to show the freshmen the merits associated with playing, despite drawbacks, and convince more students to play for their respective home-town high schools.

## Res-Lifed

**Situation:** Current Notre Dame policy, in *du Lac*, states that a student is punishable by the Office of Residence Life and Housing regardless if the student is on or off campus. As a student at the University of Notre Dame who is affected by such policies, I am writing to the readers of *The Observer* who are also affected by Notre Dame policies as either students, faculty, or members of the South Bend community to inform them of Notre Dame policy and assess its fairness with regards to off-campus behavior.

## The Importance of Being Artistic

**Situation:** I am writing a letter to be published in the Wyomissing Area School District newsletter, which is sent to every household in Wyomissing, PA. I've been in the WASD from kindergarten through graduation last year. I would like to express my concerns about the possible reduction or elimination of arts education at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center. The school board has been considering this option as a way to improve standardized test scores for the students, and therefore secure state and federal funding. Parents in the district do want their children to have good PSSA scores, but I want them to understand that getting rid of classes like art, music, and chorus is not the way to do this. I want them to see all of the benefits that art can bring to a complete education.

## Speech to the Hesburgh Scholars

**Situation:** As a member of the Hesburgh International admission team, I am in charge of hosting the 34 top admitted international students from Latin America and Europe in order to convince them to enroll at Notre Dame. During their stay, we prepared many different events and activities for them so that they might see the best of the university. The first official organized event is a diner hosted in the new Basketball press box. At this occasion, I am asked to speak for several minutes before dessert is served, to welcome them, explain to them why they have been invited and most of all to sell them our school. The audience will be composed of the international prospect students and of their hosts, who are current Notre Dame students, but I will mainly address the visiting students, as my goal is to make them confirm to the university.

## Advancing Towards the Future: An Argument for the AP Program

**Situation:** As a former student of Nixa High School (in Missouri) who took many dual enrollment classes during my four years there, I am writing to the members of the Nixa School Board of Education to present the advantages of offering AP courses alongside the current dual enrollment (DE) courses. As a student at NHS, I earned many hours of college credit through DE (dual enrollment) classes but, since I am attending an out-of-state college, none of these credits transferred. I am writing this letter, to be presented as a speech to the Board of Education, to convince the board members that gradually introducing AP credit classes into NHS will be advantageous to the students by giving them the same learning opportunity as students nationwide, while avoiding transfer issues, as well as giving them an education that is proven to help them succeed in college.

## Welcome Home, Welcome to Notre Dame

**Situation:** As a Chinese student at Notre Dame, a Catholic university, I am writing an argument to the current and future Chinese high school students who want to study in the U.S. I will post this on *Chinese Undergraduates in the United States* (CUUS), a non-profit internet forum designed to assist these high school students. (I myself have been a CUUSer for four years.) Since the majority of Chinese do not have religious affiliations, some talented Chinese high school seniors are not even considering applying to Notre Dame simply because it's a Catholic university. Even for those who want to apply, they tend to regard Notre Dame's Theology requirement as a disadvantage. I hope my article can eliminate their worries about fitting in among religious people, inform them of the importance of acquiring basic Theology knowledge, and persuade them to apply to Notre Dame.

## Parietals

**Situation:** As a student in the First Year of Studies at the University of Notre Dame, I am writing to the readers of the student newspaper, *The Observer*. The university currently enforces a rule that disallows students of opposite genders from being in the same dorm room after midnight on week nights. I wish to encourage more support from other students in order to make a stronger appeal to the university to extend weeknight parietals, so that late night studying and socialization with students of the opposite gender may become possible in the comfort and privacy of one's dorm room during the week.