Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am working with students on argumentative writing. A major problem with this kind of writing is anticipating the arguments of the “other side” and responding satisfactory to those arguments.

I would like your assistance for one writing assignment. Since almost all teens would very much like one thing that their parents have forbidden, I have chosen that parent-child scenario for this argumentative writing assignment. Your son or daughter is to choose the specific topic. As preparation, he or she will ask you to list all of your reasons for opposition. Please try to list at least three objections. Below I’ve suggested how such a scenario might go.

*Student Topic*: I want to redecorate my room.

*Parental Objections*:

* It’s too expensive.
* You never clean your room; why redecorate?
* You already spend too much time in there. We only see you occasionally now.
* You never spend any time in your room. Why bother?
* Your brother (sister) is going to feel left out. We can’t start redecorating everyone’s room.
* Your taste in decorating is questionable. We can’t paint ceilings and walls in school colors or indulge in other such fads.
* I’ll end up doing all the work. I don’t have the time or energy.
* I said, “No!”

Some of your objections may be difficult to refute, but don’t hold back. I want students to be challenged by realistic oppositions.

After students have brought in parental arguments, they will write letters answering these objections. I am requiring your son or daughter to show you this final letter. Your signature on that letter indicating that you have read it will be satisfactory. If you have the time or inclination, a written response to your son or daughter would be fantastic!

Thanks so much for your support!

Sincerely,

Tarah Clark

Ripley Middle School