# Image result for US civil war

# The Civil War – Final Assessment: Persuasive Letter

Directions

Complete the following argument template to create a persuasive letter to a relative of yours in late 1861 who lives across the Mason-Dixon line, who you hope to convince to cross over to your side.

November 22, 1861

Dear [insert a name that you think someone might have in 1861] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I hope that this letter finds you well and in good spirits, despite the tragedy that has befallen

our young nation. War is such an ugly and destructive and immoral business. I am doing

moderately well myself, under the circumstances, but I have to bring something up with you of

urgent importance, and in fact related to this terrible fighting that is tearing our country apart. If I

don’t do so, my conscience will never, ever forgive me. I wish to implore you to join our side in this

bitter fight – join us here in the [insert North or South], join our fight! I know how rational and

intelligent a person you are, so I will not hope to win you over by mere pleading and emotion.

Instead I will present you with three compelling reasons to join us, and will indeed endeavor to

respond to what I can conceive is perhaps the strongest reason to stick to the unfortunate side you

currently now hold dear.

Firstly, I think it is imperative that you join the cause of the [insert North or South]

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because [insert your first argumentative claim] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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You know that [insert evidence here] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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The importance of this is undeniable. [Insert reasoning here, explaining how your evidence supports

your claim and why it is significant to your position] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Another point that I beg you to consider: [insert second argumentative claim] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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It is quite plain that [insert evidence here] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Now, what falls out as a consequence from this no man can deny. [Insert reasoning here, explaining

how your evidence supports your claim and why it is significant to your position] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Lastly, our cause entirely merits your allegiance since [insert your third argumentative claim]

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The evidence is overwhelming that [insert evidence here] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Now, I beg you, consider then this: [insert reasoning here, explaining how your evidence supports

your claim and why it is significant to your position] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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I know that some honorable and decent men and women share your current cause and love

the [insert North or South] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. And when they say that [insert the best argument

for the other side’s position] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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I can genuinely see a reason for you to remain steadfast in your allegiance. Still, I must insist that

[insert refutation of this argument] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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And for that reason I end this letter where I began and implore you to join the righteous [insert

North or South], God’s side, the side of justice and truth, and I hope to heavens your side too soon.

With all of the sincerity of an unbowed and pure heart,

[sign or insert your name] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[print or insert your name] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_