**Idea Development in Persuasive Writing**

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| **Writing Situation:** The county leaders are considering a law that would require dogs to be kept on a leash when in public.  **Writing Task**: Write a letter to the county leaders expressing your opinion about whether this would be a good law for your community. |

Dear County Leaders,

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to express my feelings about the law that you are considering that deals with dogs. I think it is very important that citizens have the opportunity to voice their opinions about such matters. I do feel that a law requiring pet owners to keep their dogs on their property or on a leash is a good idea. There are many reasons why this law would be beneficial to our county. Some reasons for my thoughts are that dogs often make messes in our community, running free is very dangerous, and many people are frightened by dogs.

**“Oh my gosh! What is that awful commotion?” This is what my dad was yelling as he stepped out into the yard the other morning only to find my neighbor’s dogs rummaging through our garbage cans as they scattered debris all over our freshly mowed yard. What a mess!** As a general rule, my neighborhood is a pretty clean place. I mean most of the people keep their lawns mowed and don’t pile a lot of junk around their houses. However, sometimes we wake up to a terrible scene like the one I just described. This is a real problem for people that are rushed in the mornings to get to work or school like we are. Furthermore, many people’s pets wander into folk’s yards and do their business. I kept track, and there were 4 mornings in the last six months when my dad had to clean up after the neighbor’s big dogs! Yuck!

**Anecdote**

Let’s look at it a different way. Allowing dogs to run free is dangerous for the dogs themselves and to people driving cars. How many times have you seen someone’s pet splattered on the pavement after being hit by a car? I’ll bet like me, you have seen it a lot.It is a terrible tragedy. **In addition, my parents have almost wrecked several times when my neighbor’s dog darted out in front of our car. I will never forget the day we were on our way to my softball game at West Carter. There we were just driving along Route 60 when a beagle darted right out in front of us. “Watch out!” I screamed. My dad ran out of the road and nearly hit a tree!** This is unnecessary and could be prevented if the pets were kept on a leash or in the owner’s yard.

**Flashback/Anecdote**

Finally, we have to realize that many people are very afraid of dogs. What if you have a small child in your family who wants to play outside but can’t because the neighbor has a huge dog running free? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Anecdote**

In conclusion, I want to again urge you to pass the law requiring owners to keep their dogs on their property or on leashes while out in public. As I have explained our neighborhoods will be neater, the dogs themselves will be safer, and people will be less frightened. I want to thank you again for allowing me to express my opinion on this matter. I trust that you will make the right decision.

Sincerely,

A Citizen