**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.

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 mess. **Let me give you an example.** **Our garbage truck runs very early on Wednesday mornings. In fact, it is so early that most everyone is in the bed when they actually pick up the trash. Therefore, most people put their garbage out the night before. Usually, this doesn’t create a problem, but sometimes stray dogs get into the trash and make a huge mess.** This is a real problem for people that are rushed in the mornings to get to work. Furthermore, many people’s pets wander into folk’s yards and do their business. Should these non-pet-owners have to clean up a mess from a pet that isn’t even theirs? I don’t think so.

**Example**

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. For example, my dad ran out of the road one day 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.

**Example**

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? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Example**

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