Sample Letter to Principal

Dear Principal NAME,

I’m writing to invite YOUR SCHOOL to participate in the first annual East Tennessee High School Ethics Bowl. An opportunity for your students to showcase their critical thinking skills, teams from the surrounding area will analyze case studies featuring moral dilemmas and submit recommendations as to what the protagonists ethically ought to do. A panel of volunteer applied ethicists from UT’s Philosophy Department will then judge each team’s answers and supporting reasoning, and winners will advance until a champion is crowned.

Ideally you’ll find a faculty member interested in organizing and coaching a team, who either myself or another volunteer from the philosophy department will meet with and train. Beyond preparing for the bowl, if students and a faculty sponsor are interested, I would be more than happy to facilitate the formation of a Philosophy Club, though forming a club is not necessary to compete. Why would anyone do philosophy for fun? Apart from the intrinsic pleasure of thinking through life’s big questions, the logical reasoning skills developed in philosophy are beneficial in almost every area of life (philosophy majors score higher on law school entrance exams than any other major).

This first ever bowl will tentatively be held on Thursday, November 19th on the UT campus. If you or others have questions, please don’t hesitate to give me a call on my cell phone at (865) 323-9773 or shoot me an email at jdeaton1@utk.edu. I sincerely hope that you’ll chose to pass the word along to your faculty, that a teacher will be interested in coaching a team, and that your school will be represented in the first ever East TN Ethics Bowl come November.

Hoping to hear from SCHOOL soon,

Matt Deaton, MA
Graduate Teaching Associate (PhD, ABD)
Philosophy Department
University of Tennessee
801 McClung Tower, Knoxville 37996-0480