

Sample Email and/or Cover Letter to a School (Teacher and/or Administrator) for Initiating a Pre-college Philosophy Collaboration

Dear _____,

(Insert introductory sentences about who you are, your program, work, etc.).

I am writing about the possibility of establishing a philosophy collaboration with you and your school. When you have time, it would be great to discuss possibilities for this collaboration and the potential place of philosophy within your school curriculum, after-school programs, or other co-curricular programs.

Why philosophy? Philosophy is eminently practical in that it helps young students to improve their reasoning, discussion, and logical argumentation skills. Also, those who study philosophy tend to perform higher on tests which measure problem-solving skills. Philosophy in K-12 classrooms has also been shown to promote socio-emotional growth, independent thinking, and positive self-esteem in children and adolescents. In addition, philosophy helps make us better listeners, and more reflective, respectful contributors to discussions. In short, the study of philosophy offers a range of academic and personal benefits and, further, helps prepare our students for the difficult judgments that they are called upon to make now and throughout their lives.

I look forward to meeting with you and to learning more about your school and possibilities for collaboration.

(optional text, depending on your program and relationship to PLATO) Our program is associated with the Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization (PLATO), a national organization committed to bringing pre-college philosophy to elementary, middle, and high school students. You can find more details on PLATO and resources here: www.plato-philosophy.org. I have also attached more information about our program for your review.

Thank you

Sincerely,
