

Educationally Speaking  
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### **Showing Off New Logic Skills**

I trust everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. Students enrolled in the IU network of schools are most likely enjoying their three-week holiday break. This has been my first significant break from school since I began in August. My fall semester is finished and I am ready to move on to the spring semester. Wee!

My break has been spent doing what most people my age do – sitting around enjoying the ability to do absolutely nothing. I consider myself a professional at doing nothing. Sometimes when I'm sitting around doing nothing I think about doing something. Then, I realize that when I'm sitting around doing nothing and thinking about doing something, I really have done something because I was using brain energy to think of something to do. Then I usually feel like I've accomplished something for the day and I go back to doing nothing. So don't tell me it's easy to sit around all day doing nothing – it takes skill to avoid thinking.

Nevertheless, amidst all my TV watching (I bought the fourth season of ER on DVD), I have done a considerable amount of reading. I took advantage of my time to look over my textbooks before I sold them back to the bookstore. In August, I bought textbooks that were all new. Each class required I use new editions of books that were published recently, thus, there were no used books to buy. I bought those books for roughly \$300. I sold them back and received \$56. I now feel like a part of me is missing.

I also took some time to read the Salem Leader and Democrat. I had a few weeks' worth of news sitting on my table, and I contently read the Town Crier from the past few weeks. I must say that I am impressed with the caller who claims Stephanie Taylor is a "snotty-nosed brat" simply because she went to college. I wish I had read that comment weeks ago because it would have been great to talk about in my logic class. One can see that the caller is implying that *all* college graduates (and students) must be "snotty-nosed brats". That is what is called an "Argument by Generalization" – in short, it's not considered a worthy argument and has no basis for anything. Moreover, to that caller: I am not snotty-nosed; I learned how to blow my nose many years ago. Additionally, I am not a brat. I'm a nerd.

I was also impressed with the caller who claimed students at Salem High School must come from wealthy families because of all the cars she saw in the parking lot. This woman's logic stems from her inability to find a parking spot and thus she was unable to go walking at the indoor track. I also find that amusing because had she parked on the street and walked into the gym, she could include the distance from her car to the gym as exercise. Her purpose of being there was to get exercise, the purpose of the students to be there is to get an education. I'm pretty sure the high school was built with the students in

mind over the general public, considering I never saw many adults walking into classes off the street.

Lastly, the student from Salem High School who called back in response to say that many students at SHS work for their cars or at least to pay their car insurance (which is not cheap for young drivers) impresses me. I say kudos to her for being the only person amidst that squabble to provide evidence supporting her argument. Many students do work, often times ridiculous hours, to provide money for car and insurance payments. She would fare well in a university philosophy class (May I suggest IUPUI?). In addition, to her I say this: Keep working for the money – parking permits at SHS were \$2.00 when I was there, and that one permit lasted me two years. Now, at IUPUI I spend over \$175 a year for a parking permit. I had a professor last semester that had over \$1,500 deducted from his paycheck each semester so he could have his own parking spot.

Lastly, to end my rant; to all the people who claim parking on the square and in Salem is horrendous and that they have to walk too far, remember this. Parking in Indianapolis is \$15.00 a day in some lots, and all spots on the street have parking meters, and the cheapest lot in downtown is at the mall; where parking will set you back \$1.50 for just three hours. Plus, I typically walk ten minutes from my car to wherever it is I'm going. Frankly, I love parking on the square – it's the easiest place to park that I've been to in a long time.