



Girls' Guide to

Convincing Your Parents that Boarding School is a Great Idea!



Are you anxious to start your new life as a boarder?

Are you excited to dive into challenging classes alongside people who don't look at you weird when you geek out about stem cell research? Can't wait to have the time and space to spend as many hours as you want on the field perfecting your soccer skills? Ready to move to a school where you can build friends around the person you are now and the person you want to be, not how peers perceived you in the third grade?

You might know in your gut that boarding school is right for you, but how do your parents feel about it? ***Try this 8-step guide to convincing your parents that boarding school is the perfect choice.***



1.

DON'T CONVINCe—INSTEAD, ASK THEM TO HELP YOU RESEARCH THE POSSIBILITIES.

No parent likes to feel like they've missed out on something, and if you sit down with seven different completed applications, your SSAT scores, a bus ticket, and a packed suitcase, you're probably going to be starting off on the wrong foot. Start the conversation with your parents as early in the process as possible.

2.

MAKE A POWERPOINT PRESENTATION.

Parents like to see their kids be proactive with their arguments. A presentation that obviously required thought, planning, and time will impress them with the depths of your commitment to boarding school. And it doesn't have to be a PowerPoint! Make a video, spoken word performance, or a symbolic cake!



PREV

NEXT

3.

ASK THEM TO TAKE YOU TO VISIT A FEW CAMPUSES.

Boarding schools are some of the most beautiful learning institutions out there. Plus, when you visit, your parents will meet with staff who are on your side and will do some of the convincing for you.

4.

MAKE IT CLEAR THAT IT'S THE SCHOOL YOU'RE RUNNING TOWARD, NOT HOME YOU'RE RUNNING FROM.

Parents want you to be happy. If you talk about leaving home, they're going to think you're unhappy with that home. That might sting. Make sure you emphasize that you want to go to boarding school because of everything the school has to offer and everything your current school lacks, not because you're sick of family movie nights and nourishing dinners.



5.

BREATHE.

It can be easy to get emotional when you're talking about a decision that will affect the rest of your life, but staying calm and letting everyone talk through their hopes, dreams, and concerns is essential to a productive conversation. There is no doubt there will be some emotions involved, but take your time, and let everyone work through the process at a comfortable pace.

6.

LISTEN TO WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY.

It might be tempting to hold the floor until your parents agree with you about boarding school, but a better tactic is listening, agreeing that it's worth researching the subject more, and stepping away from the family meeting with a plan to address their concerns. Holding your breath until you got your way might have worked when you were two years old, but it's not going to work now.



7.

POINT OUT THAT SPACE IS OFTEN A GOOD THING BETWEEN PARENTS AND ADOLESCENTS.

Let's face it, you and your folks are more likely to get into a power struggle when you all live in the same house—boarding school can be a terrific way for the whole family to skip over the messy stuff and go straight to that wholesome, positive relationship waiting on the other side of the hormones.

8.

END THE CONVERSATION ON A GOOD NOTE.

Even if they aren't leaping with joy at the thought of sending you to boarding school, stay calm and focused. Think about the questions they raise, do some more research, and come back with answers that show you listened to their concerns.

