

CLAIM

Reason 1 – Evidence

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Counterclaim

Rebuttal

Stronger argument? Why or why not?

YES

I Would Be Famous!

Going to Mars is the opportunity of a lifetime.

Hi Mark!

I am writing to you in the middle of the night because I am way too excited to sleep. I have just made a HUGE decision. This group called Mars One is starting the first human settlement on Mars, and Mark—I've decided to go. (Or at least, I've decided to apply the day I turn 18.)

Can you even imagine what an amazing adventure it would be? I would get to train here on Earth with an **elite** group of astronauts. I would get to fly through space at lightning speeds. I would get to live in a landscape so wondrous it would be like stepping into my favorite sci-fi movie. And at night, when I stare up at the sky, one of those bright dots would be Earth.

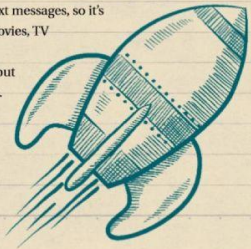
But this is about something a lot bigger than having an adventure. I don't mean to sound full of myself, but this is a chance to be part of history. I'd be taking my place alongside the great explorers who set out across the Atlantic Ocean in search of new lands, you know?

Of course, we're all going to have to move to Mars sooner or later—or to some other planet, at least. The famous scientist Stephen Hawking says that if we want our species to survive, we need to **colonize** other planets, because we are going to run out of space and resources here on Earth. In the meantime, by moving to Mars I'd be helping to improve the quality of life on Earth. According to Mars One, scientists and engineers are going to have to do a lot of work to pull this mission off. And that work will lead to **innovation** in all sorts of areas, like recycling, solar energy, food production, and medicine.

Now, there is something about the Mars One mission I haven't mentioned, and I admit it might be kind of hard to accept. The mission is one-way. You go to Mars and you never come back. Apparently, bringing people home would make the whole thing way too complicated and expensive. And yeah—that's pretty crazy to think about. But it will be possible to communicate with friends on Earth through video, voice, or text messages, so it's not like I'd be completely cut off. Plus, we'd still get to watch movies, TV shows, and sports.

I'd miss you—and my family and all my other friends too—but I've thought about this a lot. I can't wait to hear what you think. I hope you are as excited as I am.

XO,
Alex



TOM SARRETT: SHUTTERSTOCK (ROCKET)