

9/14/17

Dear Mom and Dad,

Throughout time, different methods of getting from point A to point B have been developed. As you are well aware, in the modern era we have been blessed with cars to help expedite this travelling process. One unintended effect of the implementation of cars into our society is that it has become a rite of passage to get your driver's license and spread your wings through the acquisition and use of a car. Thanks to your good parenting, the time has now come for me to engage in this important American ritual. Half of the battle is over, I have my license. But, I am still in need of a car to drive. It is agreed upon that I need to buy a car. But, the decision about what kind of car to drive has not been agreed upon. Additionally, before I go any further, I would like to make clear that this letter is not supposed to be confrontational. I understand that any decision that you make about cars is made out of concern and love for me. I am eternally thankful to have parents like you. With those truths in mind, the purpose of this letter is to convince you that the Ford Mustang (model years 1998-2004) is one of the best options available.

As I have looked at the Mustang, I have fallen in love with its ability. Aside from having a rich history of over 50 years, the Mustang has many utilitarian features that will serve me well. The Mustang was introduced on April 16, 1964 and it sold like hotcakes, ([ClassicPonyCars .com](http://ClassicPonyCars.com) *History of the Ford Mustang*). From the beginning, Ford obviously knew what they were doing. The Mustang has undergone many changes in its history, adopting many new body styles and features. The 2000 Mustang has many features that will prove to be useful to a teenage driver

like me. (Note: All of the specs about the Mustang in this letter come from the 2000 model year, to keep things simple). First, the Mustang is classified by the EPA as a subcompact car which gets 20 mpg city and 29 mpg highway. These specs make the car desirable, as it will be a gas saver that will also be easier to maneuver because it is not large. Second, the Mustang models in question have a 3.8L V6 engine. The engine is just enough to get out of trouble, but not enough to get into trouble. Third, the Mustang has a trunk with a volume of 10.3 ft³, (*The Car Connection* "2000 Ford Mustang 2-Door Coupe Specs"). That's plenty of space for anything I might need to carry with me to school, work, or anywhere else. As you can see, the Pony Car has been a champion since its release, over half a century ago. New innovations and old tradition have combined to produce a utilitarian vehicle that will be a great first car.

You may look at the statistics and not be convinced by just my words. So, I will present some information from online reviews that I have found on edmunds.com. The first, is a five star review from an owner who says that the car "Takes a licking." He says that the car has lasted him 15 years, even though the previous owner didn't take good care of it. He even says that the car was running without oil until he realized his mistake. Another good, 4.375 star review came from an owner who said the car "saved me when some [other driver] hit my driver's door at 60mph as I was making a left turn on a small two lane (no passing zone). I was dazed but the car was totaled." This review shows that the car can not only take a beating, but can prove very safe as well. Sadly, I have to mention that there are also many reviews online that support the idea that the Mustang is not a good option. In one 2.5 star review, an owner says that they thought the car "was amazingly fast and handled superbly." But, they then go on to say that the car was outperformed by other new cars and eventually began to present problems. I would like to point

out that a review might not be credible if it comes from a person who's first dissatisfaction is that they "got dusted by nearly every other new car on the road." If that occurrence is the first thing they see fit to mention, what does that say about the way that they cared for their car? Could some of the problems have stemmed from their poor ownership. Rest assured, mom and dad, that if I got a Mustang I would take good care of it so that it could serve me well for the longest duration of time possible. The overall customer review rating for a 2000 Ford Mustang is 4.3 stars, (*Edmunds* "2000 Ford Mustang Consumer Reviews"). That rating in and of itself should be enough to make us proud to own and drive a Ford Mustang.

One expression of the love that you have for me is that you want to make sure that you give me a car that could be used responsibly, where there would be minimal temptation to do things that could lead to injury. I will concede that the Mustang is a sports car and comes with the ability to drive in an unsafe manner. But don't all cars? I aim to prove that the Mustang is not all that much different than our family 2012 Kia Sedona minivan. I also aim to prove that I am a safe enough driver to enough to handle the responsibility that comes with the Mustang. To start, lets look at the specs. The 2000 Ford Mustang has 190 SAE Net Horsepower at 5250 RPM. That is a lot of power, but it is not an excess amount. Compare it to the Sedona minivan, which has 271 SAE horsepower at 6300 RPM. Additionally, the theorized top speed (without the speed governor) for the minivan and the Mustang is *the exact same* at 134 mph. The Mustang's 0-60 acceleration time is 7.1 seconds, a mere nine tenths of a second faster than the Sedona, (*Automobile Catalog* "2012 Kia Sedona EX (Model for North America U.S.) Specifications & Performance Data Review; *Automobile Catalog* "2000 Ford (USA) Mustang 4th-Gen. Phase-II Base Coupe All Versions Specifications and Performance Data.""). (Note: The Sedona specs

came from a trim package above the one we have, but the horsepower is the same). Therefore, there is not really that much of a difference in the sports car and the minivan. You already trust me in the minivan, so why not extend that trust to another car that is not really all that different under the hood? I hope that in the year and a half that I have been driving that I have proven myself to be responsible. I have a completely clean driving record, and there are many that will verify that I do not endorse unsafe activity behind the wheel. Also, whenever I do something unsafe or dangerous on the road (accidentally of course), I make a point to tell you about it. And, if you want additional peace of mind, there are apps like Life360 that will monitor my driving and give you a report of every drive that I take. I hope that I have shown that the under-the-hood difference in a Mustang and a Sedona are not all that different. I also hope that I have shown you that I can be trusted with a powerful car.

Ultimately, I hope you have seen that the Ford Mustang has proven itself to be a true and worthy contender in the quest to find a car. The Mustang is a car that is utilitarian, backed by its owners, and sporty but not too powerful. Let us use the money that I have earned from my hard work since I got my job over a year ago to buy one of these workhorses. The Pony Car has proven that it deserves to have me as its driver. When the right Mustang comes along, in good condition, well taken care of, and fairly priced, what should stop us? Let the Mustang unleash its potential and be seriously considered in our search for the perfect car.

Love you both,

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Works Cited

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