Dear Josh:

It seems I am never writing to GIVE you anything—it's always to get something, and I'm getting ashamed of myself. But not so ashamed that I'm not knocking at your door again.

This request is a little more complicated and I do hope you will accommodate me.

I have taken on the preposterous (and back-breaking) job of writing a book for Doubleday. It's going to be an Encyclopedia of Answers to Problems. I'll go from A -- Abortion, Acne, Adoption, Adultery -- through Zoonosis. Sounds formidable, doesn't it? Well, it is, but I am determined.

I am asking some of my friends around the country who are specialists to give me a hand with various subjects.

What I need from you is a few paragraphs on, "should cousins marry." About 500 words should do it.

All pieces will be signed. Please let me know how you would like your credit to read.

I must say, I've had some marvelous pieces already from the most distinguished authorities in medicine, law, religion, etc.--Karl Menninger, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, Howard Rusk, Ralph Greenson, Mike DeBakey, George Cahill, Fred Plum, John Merrill, Ted Hesburgh, Cardinal Cody, fellow Trustees at Meharry, Menningers, Mayo's, etc.

Enclosed is a self-addressed, stamped envelope for your convenience. Please say, "Yes, I'll do it."
It needn't be polished prose--just the facts in body English that the guy on the street can understand.

There is no hard and fast deadline, but October 15th would be peachy.

My warm regards,

(Ann Landers)