



Emerging | Exemplar Essay

Trophies for Everyone

No Trophies



Claim and Focus

The essay makes a very general claim ("Kids should play sports because they enjoy the game, not just to get some cheap prize"). The essay contains opinions ("that's not what sports are about") rather than maintaining a strong focus on a claim regarding trophies as a reward. Counterclaims are not addressed. The demands of the prompt are not fully met.



Support and Evidence

Clear and relevant examples are not used to support the claim. Some attempt is made to support not awarding trophies for participation ("Kids should play sports because they enjoy the game"). Development of ideas in support of a claim is general ("You have to do more than just show up once you're grown up" and "Grown ups have to work hard").



Organization

Ideas are loosely organized by asking and answering questions ("does it even mean anything?" and "Is that how jobs work?") with few attempts at a formal organizational structure. No paragraphs or transitions are used to show a progression of ideas.



Language and Style

A formal tone is not established or maintained ("Lots of people ask" and "Sure, it's nice to get something for trying"). Word choice is poor and somewhat repetitive ("kids," "show up," "great," and "grown ups"). Sentences tend to be unvaried with similar structures. The essay contains errors in conventions ("its" and "thats").



Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait 'looks like' in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see "25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays" by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

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Notes

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Lots of people ask whether its right or wrong for kids to get a trophy just for showing up. If all you have to do to get a trophy is show up, does it even mean anything? Kids should play sports because they enjoy the game, not just to get some cheap prize. Sure, its nice to get something for trying, but thats not what sports are about. Is that how jobs work? I don't think so. You have to do more than just show up once you're grown up. Grown ups have to work hard. For as long as Ive played sports, the only trophies I ever got were for coming to the games. That was great and I still have them all but thats all I really remember about Little League games.