



Developing | Exemplar Essay

## School Sports

### Sports: More Harmful than Helpful



#### Claim and Focus

The narrative attempts to make a claim (“Although many feel that keeping funding for sports is important, sports are actually more harmful than helpful.”), but it is not maintained throughout the essay. The essay does not fully address the demands of the prompt.



#### Support and Evidence

The writing offers relevant support (“bicycling, horseback riding, football, basketball and use of all terrain vehicles (ATVs) were most likely to be blamed”). There is an attempt at a counterclaim (“Although many feel that keeping funding for sports is important”), but it is not adequately developed. The demands of the prompt are not fully met with sufficient evidence from the text, and there is not an appropriate analysis of the issue.



#### Organization

The essay attempts to organize the information with multiple paragraphs. Transitions are simplistic (“first,” “next,” “lastly”) and do not help ideas to flow clearly. A conclusion sentence is present (“Lastly, these reasons show that sports are more damaging for young kids than they are helpful”), but it is minimal and does not fully support the argument.



#### Language and Style

The essay does not engage the reader because there is not enough descriptive language or varied sentence structure. The simplistic word choice showcases a casual tone (“Injuries are harmful for kids”). The essay attempts to create a unique voice for the narrator, but the writing, at times, is too informal for the task (“Would you want your kid to get hurt?”).



#### 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.

## School Sports



### Sports: More Harmful than Helpful

School sports are extremely important to high school students.

Although many feel that keeping funding for sports is important, sports are actually more harmful than helpful. Sports are more harmful because of the injuries that they cause, and the time it takes to play.

First, the study published in this week's issue of *Morbidity and Mortality* weekly, a report found that boys from age 10 to 14 were most likely to end up in the nation's emergency department with traumatic brain injury, and that activities such as bicycling, horseback riding, football, basketball and use of all terrain vehicles (ATVs) were most likely to be blamed. Comstock noted that "most injuries occur during tackles, and that the most injured position are running backs and line backs." Injuries are harmful for kids. Would you want your kid to get hurt? These injuries are dangerous and not helpful. Next, the time that sports takes is also a big part of why sports are harmful. Sports can take up many hours throughout the day, and makes kids too tired to do their work. After hours of playing sports, kids may be too tired to focus on academics like homework and studying. Playing sports will take away from time needed in class.

Lastly, these reasons show that sports are more damaging for young kids than they are helpful.