



Emerging | Exemplar Essay

Trophies for Everyone

No Trophies



Claim and Focus

The essay is focused on the opinions of the writer, even in the generalized claim (“You should do sports because you enjoy the game not just to get some cheap plastic statue”). Counterclaims are not addressed, and the demands of the prompt are not fully met.



Support and Evidence

Attempts at support are not tied to the claim (“You have to do more than just show up once you’re grown up”), the development of ideas is largely rooted in opinion, and the essay does not include paraphrased or quoted evidence from the sources.



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 style is not established (“You should do sports because you enjoy the game not just to get some cheap plastic statue”). Word choice is basic and repetitive (“lots,” “show up,” “grown ups”). Sentence structure is simplistic, and errors in conventions (“its,” missing commas) are pervasive.



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 if 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? You should do sports because you enjoy the game not just to get some cheap plastic statue. Sure its nice to get something for trying but that's 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 I've played sports, the only trophies I ever got were for coming to the games. That was great and I still have them, but that's all I really remember about Little League games.