



GRADE 8 LITERACY: TCRWP NONFICTION  
READING AND ARGUMENT WRITING  
STUDENT WORK SAMPLES

**TCRWP Nonfiction Reading and Argument Writing  
Student A**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Sample

Dear Mayor Bloomberg,

For many young people in America, sports are their dreams and hopes. And this is not without reason. Research has shown that children who participate in athletics are happier and more goal-driven than their non-athletic peers. High school athletics are still a highly beneficial activity for young people everywhere, and this is why it is important for sports programs across the country to stay right where they are. Sports programs should be kept in high schools because they have a positive effect on academics, they improve determination, and they bring people together.

According to the article *Are High School Sports Good for Kids?*, over 5 million young people in America play high school sports each year. In Michigan alone almost 300,000 play every year. And the potential education benefits skyrocket with more adolescents participating. In Jesuit High School, a coach states that when kids play sports, it has a positive effect on grades. In fact, when the season ends, grades actually tend to drop as kids are less excited and motivated for their life in and out of school. Not to mention the many sports scholarships colleges offer. Usually, altogether, doing sports has a positive effect on teenagers across the nation.

While many claim that sports are negative for young people, with many injuries and wrong lessons, I find that sports are actually very rewarding for young people. Jeffrey Perkel in his article, "High, School, College Football Comes With Risk," describes how football can be particularly dangerous. But he doesn't describe the many sports that are much less dangerous, or the dangers of obesity, inactivity, and loneliness. Some say that children are being taught that winning is the only thing that matters, and it is true that in recent society there has been an emphasis on winning. It is also said kids who are enveloped in pressure stemming from sports are more likely to "burn out sooner," but a study in Michigan reveals that kids who play sports actually have more aspirations and are more likely to set and achieve goals. This highlights how though impressionable kids may be being taught questionable lessons, the journey they take to winning is much more rewarding.

The National Federation of State High School Activity Associations promotes "participation and sportsmanship" which helps to "develop good citizens through interscholastic activities which provide equitable opportunities, positive recognition, and learning experiences to students while maximizing the achievement of educational goals." This quote illustrates how sports and teamwork in young people are a national effort, a successful one too.

As can be seen, I have revealed the positive benefits of athletics to young

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**Student A**

few lessons sports teaches to young people. So keep the sports programs, and keep the wonderful cycle going.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Olivia

## TCRWP Nonfiction Reading and Argument Writing Student A

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Summary Sample

In Daniel Gould's "Are High School Sports Good For Kids?" Daniel's central ideas is, though highschool sports increase educational aspirations, education is more important then sports anyday. I believe this because in the text, Daniel states, (after reffering to why high school sports are desired) "their (highschoolers) education objectives always come first."

The text also describes how highschool sports increase player's educational objectives. Gould states "high school sports are an intergral part of the fabric of Americans society," and "maximizes the achievement of educational goals." High school sports help students get "closer ties to school" and therefore become better students. Studies have also shown that children who participate in sports "increase educational aspirations." Overall playing sports helps kids educationally.

Though sports benefits players educationally, some players are over-achievers and emphasize winning a lot. Those students present problems educationally. Sometimes they are so focused on winning "the educational objectives for involvement are forgotten." This is very important because it is a downside to the privledge of highschool sports, when players are too focused on winning and not focused enough on education.

Daniel Gould believes education always comes first. Though winning is very important, the real thing you gain is education. Sports help kids in highschool achedemically, and should be there so everyone can participate. Daniel believes that the educational benefit of sports is important, yet education with or without should always come first.

**TCRWP Nonfiction Reading and Argument Writing  
Student B**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Sample

Dear Mayor Bloomberg,

Every Spring, kids line up around my school gym, anxious, excited looks across their faces. Everyone knows from their expressions what this day is—Track and Field tryouts. As Spring turns into summer, the magic and excitement of the kids and team never dies. The mood at Clinton is always brighter during sports seasons.

Although school sports can cause injuries and anxiety, they are extremely desirable for young people across America. I strongly believe in keeping school sports at my school, because it benefits moods, grades, and health in every way.

Reporter Katie Couric states that school sports help children gain confidence, and make new friends. Studies have shown that by simply hitting a golfball, tossing a ball in a hoop, and running bases can help you connect more with people. Couric says, "Get in the game' Which is, after all, an important lesson for people at all ages."

Playing school sports also has a positive effect on grades. While many people wonder 'how much is too much?' balancing sports and grades helps kids focus. A high school basketball coach says, "When the season ends, grades drop." He feels like kids have no motivation when they are not playing sports.

So Mayor Bloomberg, please understand that without school sports, many children would feel lost, because they are not just losing an activity they love, but also the many benefits that come with it.

## TCRWP Nonfiction Reading and Argument Writing Student B

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Summary Sample

Daniel Gould's article "Are High School Sports Good For Kids?" teaches the reader the importance of high school sports. This important topic is dissected in his passage.

"A multiyear study conducted in Michigan has shown that children who participate in sports have increased educational aspirations, closer ties to school and increased occupational aspirations in youth," this quote from Gould's passage reflects one positive students gain when involved with sports. The positive means sports encourage kids to do better in school, and set goals for their future.

In the article "Are High School Sports Good For Kids?" Gould mentions "High School sports are an integral part of the fabric of Americans society with over 5 million youth participating in any school year." As you can see, a lot of students participate in school sports; when taken away, who knows what effect that could have on the student?

Although Daniel Gould is defending high school sports, he does mention a couple important cons that should be taken into consideration when debating this issue. One very important one is winning. "The overemphasis on winning issue is especially significant as when this occurs the educational objectives for involvement are often forgotten." Competitiveness can get out of hand sometimes, the solution is to make sure the coaches/parents/teachers remind the students not to get too caught up in it.

The importance of high school sports is dealt with in the article "Are High School Sports Good for Kids?" by Daniel Gould. He brings up excellent points/ideas on why they are good, and a couple of important points on why they aren't always the best.

**TCRWP Nonfiction Reading and Argument Writing  
Student C**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Sample

Dear Mayor Bloomberg,

I believe sports are sports, you will get stressed and possibly injured. Young adults have the power to say they're so stressed that they can't play. Young adults have the power to pursue their dreams, if it's sports; then they should know the harms that come with it.

We have stressed the idea of doing sports will get an amazing scholarship. Stressing the fact of our economy today, a lot of parents will stress their teens of doing what-ever it takes to get that scholarship.

Why not make other good scholarships for other extra curricular activities? So we don't stress sports so much, till another injury?

For example it says in the text "3% of basketball players get scholarships." While in another text says "basketball is one of the most injuries." Why are they so determined to a point of hurting themselves?

Parents, popularity, even how it makes them feel. As it says in a video that "10% of young adults are embarrassed how their parents act at games." That has a huge effect. Furthermore it also is stated it makes young adults to get out and just play.

Including the new study stated from one video in particular states, "New study shows students gain confidence and friendships, and the young adults that don't participate normally aren't as social and constantly alone."

Taking away sports is too drastic, some students use it to unwind. While some say it's stressful, I get the feeling those young adults who say that are obviously being pressured.

Sports aren't to be blamed for stress, it's the parent that forced them to do it, the self-esteem of the young adult, and not enough hours to balance school, sports, and just time to relax.

As Hank Hill stated, "Good teachers benefit all students. Varsity sports only benefit some."

To me that says, having good coaches and teachers to support and care for the team will let their students thrive. While others who were forced to do sports activities are not benefited as much.

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### Student C

Why not just make more scollerships and make it less stressful than forcing their children to do some thing they do not want to do? Like arts programs, they are disapering day by day. While some love the arts, they are getting shoved into sports. I belive there are people called born athleats, they will eat up sports because it is fun. There are such things as born artists, writers, mathematishions, even explorers! Why make young adullts be put into a categorie that they oviously don't want to be in?

All in all, if you don't stress scollerships on only sports and make schollerships for other acedemic and extra curricular activities, we would have... less stressed young adults, less injuries, less stress in homes, and more thriving students in schools.

I believe if we just do this one thing, it would make a huge difference in grades and emotional stress decline in schools across the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_

**TCRWP Nonfiction Reading and Argument Writing  
Student C**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Summary Sample

Are High School Sports good or bad for kids, what does Daniel Gould have to say about that. In Daniel Gould's essay "Are Highschool sports Good for Kids?" he supports his idea that they are good, mainly. This demonstrates how how he supports it.

No doubt about it that Daniel Gould thinks that High School sports are good for kids. For example he states in the this article "High school sports are an intergral part of the fabric of Americans society." This quote shows that Daniel thinks that High school sports are good for the American society, in addition.

I would be lieing if I said that Daniel thinks that sports are a bunch of hard work for High School kids. For example he backs up that the couaches stressed winning but they never put it before personal and edicational purposes. This shows that Daniel does stress that coaches put emphasis on winning but not as much as everybody thinks they do.

All in all Daniel does realize that there are put backs to highschool sports for kids but they are overally good for kids. In "Are Highschool sports good for kids? By Daniel Gould he mainly supports his idea that they are good for kids. Just like I asked in the beginning what did Daniel have to say about it?

TCRWP Nonfiction Reading and Argument Writing Student D

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Sample

Dear Mayor Bloomberg,

Imagine a boy waking up from a dream he just had about being a PRO basketball player and he follows it with the help of scholarships and his dream later comes true. my cousin named Juan Dominguez who is currently 18 years old is working towards making that dream come true. Of course, along with that keeping his grades up, which is great because his mind is always entertained and according to the news report, the more you play the better you hit the books!

Have you ever heard that saying "You look great, you feel great"? Well, it's true, and can equal to a happy child! Games and sports help build up confidence, however as do other activities such as acting so where are the scholarships for that and other art programs? Yes, one of the pros to sports is that you get rewarding friendships, but same with any other art program because really, it's all about teamwork.

As can be seen, there are a few legit and solid reasons to why following your dream is so important, and we sometimes need your help with the use of scholarships including athletics and artist.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Summary Sample

This article is about how school sports is good for a kid and good for a kids education. I think that school sports can help a kid do better in school. In this article "Are High School Sports good for Kids?" the author Daniel Gould believes that sport will help kids do better in school. Do too.

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