

Name _____

There has been a movement underway in the past several years to require that all kids be allowed equal play time on the sports field, regardless of their skill level.

Proponents of this movement cite improvements in self-esteem as the end result, but improved self-esteem comes as the result of being a contributing part of a winning team – not from being there as a result of a kind of social charity.

In the real world, good performance is rewarded. People get jobs because they are qualified to do them. They get raises and promotions because they do their jobs well, not because the guy next to them got a promotion so it's only "fair" that they get one too. Failing to teach kids at a young age that life is essentially a competition is failing to prepare them for their futures.

Sports is also not just about physical skills; it's about attitude and heart. Kids earn places on teams by exhibiting hard work and perseverance, and an understanding of what being on a team means. Kids that don't work hard at practice or who don't show up regularly, kids who are rude and disrespectful, should not be given an opportunity to play at the expense of a kid who has worked hard, and who exhibits character both on and off the field.

Finally, if a kid wants to play a sport and doesn't make the team, or makes the team but never gets played, the solution to that problem isn't for the adults to reorganize things so that the kids gets to play; the solution is for the kid to work harder and get better! What incentive does anyone have to improve if they can get what they want without having to work for it?

Help kids grow up to be winners by encouraging them to work for what they want, and by allowing them to fail, because for a real winner, failure is only a temporary setback on the way to eventual success.

Name _____

DIRECTIONS: After you have read the essay, fill in the outline below. Which paragraph is the weakest?

The author's claim is: _____

Reason/evidence #1: _____

Supporting Details: _____

Reason/evidence #2: _____

Supporting Details: _____

Reason/evidence #3: _____

Supporting Details: _____

ANSWERS

Author's Claim: Improved self-esteem comes as the result of being a contributing part of a winning team.

Reason/Evidence #1: In the real world, good performance is rewarded.

Supporting Details: People get jobs because they are qualified to do them. They get raises and promotions because they do their jobs well, not because the guy next to them got a promotion so it's only "fair" that they get one too. Failing to teach kids at a young age that life is essentially a competition is failing to prepare them for their futures.

Reason/Evidence #2: Sports is also not just about physical skills; it's about attitude and heart.

Supporting Details: Kids earn places on teams by exhibiting hard work and perseverance, and an understanding of what being on a team means. Kids that don't work hard at practice or who don't show up regularly, kids who are rude and disrespectful, should not be given an opportunity to play at the expense of a kid who has worked hard, and who exhibits character both on and off the field.

Reason/Evidence #3: Finally, if a kid wants to play a sport and doesn't make the team, or makes the team but never gets played, the solution to that problem isn't for the adults to reorganize things so that the kids gets to play; the solution is for the kid to work harder and get better!

Supporting Details: What incentive does anyone have to improve if they can get what they want without having to work for it?

The third paragraph is the weakest.