

Grade 5

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Marlins: Fifth Grade Writing Lesson Plan

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| VISION-SETTING | OBJECTIVE. What is your objective? □ | KEY POINTS. What knowledge and skills are embedded in the objective? □ |
| | <p><i>Student will be able to:</i></p> <p>Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information. Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's purpose. Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.</p> | <p>1. An opinion piece is generally written with the purpose of persuading others to accept the stated opinion.</p> <p>2. An argument is more valid if it is supported by facts and details (i.e. statistics and evidence).</p> |
| | ASSESSMENT. Describe, briefly, what students will do to show you that they have mastered (or made progress toward) the objective. □ | |
| | Students will write their own opinion piece on the following topic: _____ is the best sport to play (or watch) because ... | |
| DETERMINING METHODS | OPENING (10 min.) How will you communicate <i>what</i> is about to happen? □ How will you communicate <i>how</i> it will happen? □ How will you communicate its <i>importance</i> ? □ How will you communicate <i>connections</i> to previous lessons? □ How will you engage students and capture their interest? □ | MATERIALS. |
| | <p>Students will enter class and immediately respond to the following prompt on the board: "What is your favorite sport to play? What is your favorite sport to watch? Why?"</p> <p>After students have been given five minutes to write, the teacher will begin: Okay, all, what do you think? Would anyone like to share? (Calls hands) Today we are going to talk about how to be successful writers. Does anyone here like to write? If you do, that's wonderful. If you don't, we will make you feel so good at writing that you will have to love it!</p> | Student notebooks |
| | INTRODUCTION OF NEW MATERIAL (10 min.) How will you explain/demonstrate all knowledge/skills required of the objective, so that students begin to actively internalize key points? □ Which potential misunderstandings do you anticipate? How will you proactively mitigate them? □ How will students interact with the material? □ | |
| | <p>Being able to write successfully means that you are able to construct a solid argument that has support. Imagine if I said to you, "It rained by my house yesterday." You might not necessarily believe me unless you saw the weather report, or if I brought you pictures of the rain. These are examples of support!</p> <p>Take notes on this next part, students. An opinion is a belief or view on something. You might have an opinion about your favorite baseball team or your favorite color. Many people have opinions about politics and religion. Sometimes, people write their opinions down for others to read. We will be getting into those opinion pieces today.</p> <p>A strong opinion piece has <i>reasons</i> to back up the opinion. "Because I said so," or "Because I feel like it," are not good reasons. Your reasons should be unemotional and based on fact.</p> <p>Before you do anything else in your opinion piece, address the topic. State the issue at hand. Next, state your opinion. After you have introduced the topic and stated your opinion, you can begin to delve into your reasons, or your support.</p> <p>Let's look at a few examples from the newspaper. Opinion pieces are all around us, and there is a section in the newspaper dedicated to opinions. We will look at one opinion example together, and you will look at one on your own. While we read, underline <i>the topic, the opinion, and each example of support that you can find.</i></p> | Student notebooks Miami Herald or USA Today copies |

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| <p>GUIDED PRACTICE (10 min.) How will students practice all knowledge/skills required of the objective, with your support, such that they continue to internalize the key points? □ How will you ensure that students have multiple opportunities to practice, with exercises scaffolded from easy to hard? □</p> | |
| <p>Let's read some more examples of opinion on a topic that ties back to our Do Now. On our "Fifth Grade Opinion Practice" handout, there is an opinion article written by an author who thinks that baseball is the best sport in America, by far. While we read, underline the opinion in each portion, along with the reasons or support that each author uses.</p> <p>You will need to know a couple of vocabulary words in order to be successful with our reading. Write these words down; the more vocabulary you know, the more brilliant you become.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Exploit (v) to utilize especially for profit 2) Impoverished (adj) reduced to poverty 3) Contemporary (adj) of the present time | <p>"Fifth Grade Opinion Practice" Handouts</p> <p>http://www.newrepublic.com/article/politics/102238/baseball-mlb-ticket-price-collective-bargaining-american-sport</p> |
| <p>INDEPENDENT PRACTICE (20 min.) How will students independently practice the knowledge and skills required of the objective, such that they solidify their internalization of the key points prior to the lesson assessment? □</p> | |
| <p>Students will have twenty minutes to respond to the following prompt: _____ is the best sport to play (or watch) because ...</p> <p>They will first be required to state the topic, their opinion, and three pieces of evidence/support. Once they have completed this, they may begin writing (using the two opinions above as examples).</p> <p>If students finish early, they will be expected to trade papers with a partner. They will write their name at the bottom of their partner's paper, and proceed to underline the topic, opinion statement, and support/evidence present.</p> | <p>"Fifth Grade Opinion Practice" Handouts</p> |
| <p>Lesson Assessment: Once students have had an opportunity to practice independently, how will they attempt to demonstrate mastery of the knowledge/skills required of the objective? □</p> | |
| <p>The lesson assessment will be the product of the time utilized during independent practice.</p> | |
| <p>CLOSING (5 min.) How will students summarize and state the significance of what they learned? □</p> | |
| <p>If we have time, at least three students will share their opinions. What we learned today can help us in the future when we have a cause that we believe is super important. In order to change the world and make it a better place, we need to have ideas that are supported with reasoning and evidence. Great job today!</p> | |

Fifth Grade – Writing
Activity: Persuasive Writing

Students will write their own opinion piece.

Why Baseball is the Best – And Least Exploitative – American Sport

By Michael Kazin, March 31, 2012

Since the 1960s, professional football has supplanted baseball as our nation’s favorite sport—generating higher revenue and better television ratings. And, as the past few weeks have demonstrated, college basketball has captured the attention and diminished the productivity of the American workforce in ways baseball does not. But let’s not confuse popularity with superiority.



Major League Baseball (MLB), the oldest spectator team sport in the nation, has become the most affordable and least exploitative one—and its labor relations are remarkably harmonious, too. Compared to the dysfunction, scandal, and discontent commonplace in other professional sport, baseball is looking better than ever.

Let’s start with cost: A family with a middle-class income can attend a baseball game without straining its budget but has to think hard before splurging for an afternoon or evening spent inside an NFL stadium or an NBA or NHL arena. In 2011, the average price of an MLB ticket was about \$27, compared to over \$48 for a pro basketball game, \$57 for a hockey match, and a whopping \$113 for one ticket to a gridiron bruise-a-thon.

Of course, it’s a lot more expensive to buy your way into Yankee Stadium than into, say, PNC Park, home of the Pittsburgh Pirates, who have not had a winning season in 20 years. But victory doesn’t always lead to overcharging the customers. After capturing the World Series in 2010, the following year, the San Francisco Giants raised the average price of a ticket to just \$25. This bought you a seat in perhaps the most beautiful stadium in North America, where, from the upper-deck, you look out on San Francisco Bay and the Oakland hills beyond. Next fall, that same amount will buy you just a beer and a serving of nachos at MetLife Stadium, the home of the New York Giants, located in the featureless flatland adjoining the New Jersey Turnpike. Alas, even the worst seat to watch the 2012 Super Bowl winners there will run you over \$100.

In addition, pro baseball, which sold more than 73 million tickets last year, has also become more internally competitive, despite wide spending disparities between rich teams like the Yankees and the relatively impoverished Pirates. Pittsburgh actually led their division halfway through the summer, before the young squad endured an epic collapse. And last year, the Tampa Bay Rays, one of the poorest teams in the Majors, squeezed into the playoffs with a stunning, almost unprecedented comeback on the very last day of the season. The scrappy Rays rallied from seven runs behind in the eighth inning to defeat the mighty Yanks, whose annual payroll is five times larger than theirs.



MLB players, compared to athletes in the other major sports, are also a fairly contented bunch. The 1994 strike, which wiped out the World Series that year, is all but forgotten. The collective bargaining agreement the powerful players union signed last fall runs until 2016 and raises the minimum salary to \$500,000 per year. Neither pro basketball nor pro football owners write checks so large to first-year players. The new baseball contract also instituted a strict drug-testing program, which the players accepted in order to avoid any repetition of the steroids scandal which badly tarnished their image.

Unlike their counterparts in football and basketball, the baseball authorities actually pay a salary to most of the young men they think have a serious chance of making a MLB roster. Even the best college baseball players usually serve an apprenticeship in the minor leagues before they are ready for the big time. Of course, no one gets rich toiling in the minors: First-year players receive a minimum of \$850 a month in the lowest or rookie league and \$2150 a month in AAA, the highest. Yet few perform before large crowds or have their names inscribed on t-shirts or hoodies. Compare their lot with that of the famous “student-athletes” in basketball and football who make millions in profits for big-name universities like Ohio State, Alabama, and Kentucky, yet are prohibited by NCAA rules from receiving so much as a free plane ticket back home.

In pro basketball, even handsome salaries don’t guarantee contentment. This year’s NBA season was delayed almost two months and almost cancelled altogether because of an angry dispute about how owners, all but one of whom are white, and players, over 80 percent of whom are black, would share revenue. At one point, the popular broadcaster Bryant Gumbel compared league commissioner David Stern to a “modern plantation overseer, treating NBA men as if they were his boys ... keeping the hired hands in their place.”

Racial tensions are less severe in baseball, where white players are in the majority, but Latinos comprise about 30 percent and African-Americans about 10 percent in MLB ranks. Another indicator of the less severe racial dynamics affecting baseball: Last week, Magic Johnson, one of the greatest basketball players in history, became the first black owner of a MLB team, buying the Los Angeles Dodgers for an astonishing two billion dollars along with other investors.

Meanwhile, few MLB players ever endure the concussions that are alarmingly routine in the NFL and present what may be the most troubling problem in contemporary pro sports. According to the Washington Post, as many as 1,000 former players are currently suing the NFL for ignoring or concealing the head traumas they suffered during their careers. The National Hockey League, which only recently prohibited hard checks to the head, may not be far behind.

Thus, at the opening of its 142nd consecutive season, major league baseball is healthier than it has been in years. This may make it easier for the casual fan to walk through the gates of a ballpark and take pleasure in a game whose rules and aesthetics have changed little since Grover Cleveland lived in the White House. In *The Art of Fielding*, Chad Harbach’s delicious first novel, a wise young college catcher reflects on “the almost unfair beauty of a professional ball field, the expensive riotous green of the grass, the scalloped cutouts around the bases, the whole place groomed like living art.” You get to drink beer and yell at the umpire too.

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