

Writing Situation:

Each year schools report sports-related injuries. These injuries sometimes require serious medical attention. The district committee for school safety is considering removing full contact sports such as baseball, basketball, and football from elementary and middle schools.

Writing Directions:

Present an argument as to whether or not students should be allowed to play high impact sports in elementary and middle school. Support your argument with reasons and details.

{As you see, the mode of writing and audience is open for students. They may choose to present the argument to the DCSS, hoping to influence their decision, or to students and families, or to the local school board members, etc. It could be a speech, editorial, letter, letter to editor... In the first example, no proper hello was used or needed. In the second example, addressing sports enthusiasts supported the argument. All these decisions are excellent discussions that will build student thinking, engagement, and writing.}

March 1, 2012

Dear Editor:

The District Committee for school safety is considering removing full contact sports like baseball, basketball, and football from the elementary and middle schools. This is a serious mistake because all our school sports should remain a part of our schools.

Sports are beneficial for students at all ages. If sports like baseball, basketball, and football are removed from school until high school, students would not have the necessary skills to play. Playing these sports in grades 3 – 8, teaches essential skills such as running, jumping, dodging, and handling a ball by passing, shooting and batting. We cannot leave out other important skills learned from sports like cooperation, teamwork, and sportsmanship that are life skills. In addition, playing team sports encourages healthy lifestyles. Students learn the benefits of exercise and being active while playing. This activity builds strength and endurance. This physical activity develops healthy hearts and lungs while helping students keep healthy weights. The DCSS is worried about serious sports injuries. This is a true concern, but removing sports from our schools isn't the answer. Most serious injuries like broken bones, torn ligaments, and concussions happen at home or on school playgrounds. Maybe DCSS should focus more on preventing injuries by wearing the correct equipment and following the rules, rather than thinking about shutting down some of the most popular sports.

To sum it up, the great value that students gain from sports is much more important than worrying about injuries that happen anyway. We need to speak up and let the committee know that we want to continue all sports in our elementary and middle schools.

Sincerely,

Mickey Mantley

Schools Need Sports
By: Michael Juredone

Attention all sports lovers! The District Committee for School Safety (DCSS) is considering removing full contact sports from our elementary and middle schools. Football, baseball, basketball and other full contact sports should remain in the elementary and middle schools for many reasons.

All sports are important for Ohio County students. First of all, sports teach important skills such as running, jumping, dribbling, passing, hitting, and hitting. Without learning and building these skills in elementary and then middle schools, how will students play and compete in high school? Don't forget other essential skills taught in sports like cooperation, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Another essential reason for all sports is that they teach healthy lifestyles. Through sports we learn the benefits of exercise and keeping active. Playing sports builds muscles, strength, and endurance. It makes our hearts and lungs healthier, relieves mental stress, and helps us keep weight down.

Yes, the DCSS is concerned about serious sports injuries. How is this a valid reason? Most injuries like broken bones, sprained ankles, concussions, and cuts that need stitches happen at home in students' backyards. Many of these injuries occur on the playground. Are we going to remove the playgrounds next?

In closing, full contact sports are an important part of our schools. The many benefits of these sports far outweigh the small chance of injury. We must help the DCSS understand that removing any sports from our schools is a serious mistake.