

Keeping Score

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EN101: English Composition

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Commented [GG2]:

Skip three or four lines below the top margin of the page and type the title of your essay. Use bold type.

Skip a line and then type your name. The rest of the information should follow in the order shown:

The Name of Your Course
Your School or College, Grantham University
Course Number: Course Name
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Under APA 7th edition, you may choose the font of your text. The operating guideline is to make sure your font is easy to read and does not distract from the content of your paper (no fancy or showy fonts). Some acceptable choices include

- 12-pt. Times New Roman
- 11-pt. Calibri
- 11-pt. Arial (as shown)
- 11-pt. Georgia
- 10-pt. Computer Modern

Whatever font you choose, use it consistently throughout the paper.

Always give your essay a title that reflects its contents and is designed to draw reader interest. Generic titles such as "Essay #2" and topic-only titles such as "Little League" are boring!

Abstract

Proposed changes to Little League scoring policies can seriously affect the elements that make this game not only popular, but beneficial to the children who play the game and the families who support them. This article explores the proposal of a local little league to develop a no-scoring policy, the reasons behind such a decision, and the potential outcomes of this plan.

Commented [GG3]: Abstracts are generally not required for 100-level composition courses. If an abstract is required, it should appear on its own page after the title page.

An abstract is a brief summary (about 250 words) of your paper. DO NOT confuse an abstract with the introduction of your paper. The introduction should not be on a separate page.

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Keeping Score

Little League is an immensely popular sport. With several leagues scattered across the country and the world, it is one sport that continues to grow in popularity. As Michael Bamberger reports in his article, "The Kids Are All Right", "Little League International is by far the biggest youth baseball organization in the world, with 2.1 million boys and girls under the age of 13 playing in 104 countries. Ripken Baseball is a distant second, with 600,000 boys and girls playing in the U.S. and five other countries," and these are only two leagues out of many (Bamberger, 2002, para. 5). Through these youth organizations, players learn the value of hard work, collaboration, focus, and so on. Yet in April 2009, the Little League commission in Silverton, Kansas, proposed a change to the decades-old tradition of keeping score, a move that could hinder the positive effects the local Little League organization has had on the community. According to the proposal, the elimination of scoring will help children and their parents focus on the intended purpose of the game: participation. Citing unnecessary stress in children, the commission hopes to change the League's approach to children's baseball within two months.

While the reason for the proposed change is worthy of attention, the commission should reconsider such a dramatic shift in this beloved pastime. Without evidence of a correlation between the children's stress and the scoring system, the League might be correcting a nonexistent issue. The League should also consider how players' parents will react to the change. The commission's proposal could result in uprooting years of Little League tradition as well as the loss of important childhood lessons about effort and reward.

Evidence should be provided to the community to demonstrate precisely how the scoring system is contributing to children's stress and how the removal of the system will alleviate that stress. Children experience stress for dozens of reasons, and most of those reasons have very little to do with baseball. Many children feel pressured about their school work and need extra attention academically. Often, children experience bullying or have trouble making friends. In some cases, children are exposed to an unstable environment at home, including sexual abuse

Commented [GG5]: Center the title of your essay above the text and immediately below the running head. Use bold text; do not use all capital letters or italics.

Commented [GG6]: The text begins on the line below the title of your essay. Indent all paragraphs five spaces. Do not leave a space between paragraphs.

Commented [GG7]: This citation consists of only the author's last name, year of publication, and (for quotations) the page or paragraph number. Save all other information for your References page. This type of citation is known as a "parenthetical citation": All of the elements are enclosed in parenthesis. (See below for another way of citing known as "narrative citation.")

Commented [GG8]: Notice that the paper targets a very specific issue in a very specific community. Scoring in Little League may not be a major issue to a lot of readers across the country, but it makes a big difference to parents of Little League players in Silverton, KS. And the writer establishes why her topic matters and how it can have long-term consequences for the children involved.

Commented [GG9]: This is the thesis statement. It is the main point of the essay and the argument the writer wants to persuade the reader to accept.

A thesis statement is usually expressed in one or two sentences. This one happens to be expressed in four sentences, but each sentence builds off the previous one and develops the argument further.

A thesis statement is usually presented at the end of the introductory paragraph, but, because this thesis is long, it merits its own paragraph.

Commented [GG10]: This is Reason #1 of the argument. It is also the topic sentence of the paragraph. The writer spends this paragraph and the next developing this point. When a writer starts off with a point and gives evidence to support it, this is called deductive reasoning.

Short essays such as this do not require Heading Levels or Section Labels. If your essay is long or contains multiple sections, see Section 1.26 in the APA Guide.

and witnessing crimes (Priore, 2020). The community should focus with certainty on the proven culprit of its children's stress. Removing the Little League's scoring system without any benefit might cause even more stress, and it will most likely prove to be an undesirable option for parents.

Many parents remember playing in Little League themselves. Established in 1939, the League has a rich history that many modern-day parents were involved in as children ("The Federal Incorporation," n.d.). Understandably, parents want to pass their childhood joys to their children while simultaneously reliving some of those experiences. The emotional intensity parents experience when they have a child in Little League is challenging at times but ultimately rewarding. Cheering for their children, consoling them after a loss, celebrating after a win, bragging about accomplishments to friends and relatives: These bonding experiences will be altered almost beyond recognition without scores, and parents might be reluctant to part with them.

Similarly, parents will be reluctant to part with what is currently an excellent educational experience for children. Little League is centered on the game baseball, but it's more than a game. When these teams of children practice, they understand that the skills they're perfecting will soon be put to the test. When they're up to bat, they understand that focus is imperative. When they run, they run with all their might because, otherwise, they disappoint their teams. And when they win, they know that all their efforts were not in vain. In this moment, especially, they learn the value of hard work. As Robert Fromberg (2010), editor-in-chief of *hfm*, notes, "Apparently, healthcare and Little League baseball have something in common. In both, a secure foundation coupled with continuous improvement make for resilience" (p. 28). Fromberg also claims that such a foundation is necessary for improvement:

Although their skills vary, the kids are all in the same boat; they all strike out, drop balls, and throw to the wrong base. Another aspect of this foundation is that every success—a caught fly ball, a hit, even a 'walk—is celebrated by team, coaches, and parents alike. In addition to this foundation of security, each kid gets better as the season goes along. Kids

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Commented [GG12]: A topic sentence doesn't always have to be the first sentence in the paragraph. For variety, it may be effective to start off with examples and lead the reader to a generalized conclusion. This is known as inductive reasoning.

Commented [GG13]: Here is Reason # 2 of the argument.

Commented [GG14]: This type of citation is known as "narrative citation." The author's name is not included in parenthesis because it is a grammatical part of the sentence. Only the year and the page number (following the quote) are in parenthesis.

Commented [GG15]: Since the author was only just mentioned two lines above, it's not necessary to repeat the year. Avoid overcitation.

barely willing to swing the bat get hits; pitchers who couldn't find home plate throw strikes. Everyone gets better, and surely that gives everyone hope that the next time they're up to bat or in the field, something good can happen. (p. 28)

This learning process might sound intense for a child, but it's important to prepare future CEOs and engineers and bankers for the demanding world they will soon face. The instinct is to protect children until they're adults, but the consequences of unprepared adults waiting around for their trophies might be harsher than the rules of children's baseball.

Little League teaches children cooperation and discipline while offering hours of fun, and it creates a focal point for families to come together. Little League is, in many parents' minds, an icon and a testament to a simpler time. A dramatic change in the structure of the game could change the way people perceive its purpose. The commission is right to address the issue of stress in children, but they should investigate the cause more thoroughly. The commission should prove that the League's scoring system causes stress in children before making such a dramatic change to this beloved game.

Commented [GG16]: If a quote is longer than 40 words, place it in block quote format (start the entire quote on a new line, indent each line of the quote 0.5 inches, and do not use quotation marks. The citation falls outside the final end punctuation.)

Use block quotes sparingly and only if the entire passage is necessary to understand the author's meaning. Most quotes should be one or two sentences at most.

Commented [GG17]: Here the writer briefly addresses a counterargument. She acknowledges her readers' desire to protect children. However, she refutes their assumption that it's better for children to wait until they are adults to learn that life is not fair.

Commented [GG18]: The author begins the conclusion by summarizing the main points of the essay without repeating them. Note that the author does not clutter the paper with unnecessary phrases such as "In conclusion," "In summary," or "To sum it up."

Commented [GG19]: Here the author reaffirms her argument, again without repeating what she has already said. This is the main point the writer wants the reader to take away; she re-emphasizes this point at the end.

References

Bamberger, M. (2002). The kids are all right. *Sports Illustrated*, 97(9), 48.

The federal incorporation of little league. (n.d.). Little League Online.

<http://www.littleleague.org/learn/about/historyandmission/federal.htm>

Fromberg, R. (2010, July). Risk and resilience. *hfm*, 64(7), 28.

Priore, A. (2020, March 6). How childhood stress makes you sick. *Newsweek Global*, 174(6), 22-33.

Commented [GG20]: Begin the References page on a separate page. Even if you have only one source, always use "References" (plural).

Alphabetize sources.

Commented [GG21]: Begin the citation with the author's last name and first initial. Enclose the year in parenthesis. Notice the capitalization of the article title (only the first word, proper nouns, and the first word after a colon should be capitalized). The title of a journal, newspaper, book, or magazine is italicized, as is the volume number.

The three numbers represent the volume, issue, and page numbers. They are always presented in this form for consistency.

Commented [GG22]: If no author is listed, begin the citation with the article title and then the date. Alphabetize a title by the first significant word (ignore "The," "A," or "An").

The title of the website is not italicized. Follow the title of the website with the complete URL.

To indent the second and subsequent lines in Word, go to Paragraph -> Special -> Hanging. This is known as a "hanging indent."