

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

Above-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Persuasive Writing (Unit 6, pages 310–313)

Assignment: Write a one- to two-page persuasive letter proposing a rule change for a sport or game you enjoy watching.

Dear Commissioner of Baseball:

It is time to abolish the designated hitter rule that has haunted baseball for more than twenty-five years. As we all know, the rule, which allows managers to substitute strong batters for the team's weaker hitting pitchers in the batting lineup, was established in 1973 to create more excitement for fans. However, instead, the designated hitter rule has alienated many loyal baseball fans and cheapened the game.

Includes a clear thesis statement and persuasive word choices

Baseball fans throughout the ages have enjoyed watching the tough challenges a ball club manager faces during a game. Perhaps the most important decision a baseball manager makes is when to take out a pitcher and when to leave him in the game. This is where baseball's real drama lies, not in the grand slams and home runs you see on TV the next day. For example, let's say you have a close game in the sixth inning, with your team at bat. Your team is behind by only two runs. Three runners are on base, but the pitcher, who is a weak hitter, is next at bat. Do you sacrifice the pitcher and put in a pinch hitter? This is the kind of decision a manager must make without the DH rule. But, with the rule, the decision is made for him, eliminating one of the most exciting moments in the game. Bob Costas, a respected American sportscaster, wrote in *The Sporting News*, "The strategy brought into the game by making the pitcher hit adds a texture and complexity worth preserving. Baseball is simply a better game without the DH."

Provides a specific example as evidence

Supporters of the rule say that it balances the game's offensive and defensive aspects. These people point to the fact that an entire league batted .239 in the 1972 season, the year before the DH was instituted. It is true that the DH rule was established as a response to an actual imbalance in the game. However, now, a generation later, baseball scores are as inflated as a hot air balloon.

Cites a relevant opinion from an expert

The Commissioner has an obligation to protect baseball's reputation as "the thinking man's game" and to ensure its continuing success with fans. Doing away with the designated hitter will not decrease fans' love of the game. On the contrary, speaking as a loyal baseball fan, I believe it will restore our faith in this beloved American sport.

Uses fact and opinion to address opposing viewpoints

Sincerely,

Joshua Wilson

Conclusion restates the thesis and call to action.

Summary: *This assignment makes an exceptionally strong argument.*

This piece would probably receive a 4 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 100 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—35 points for Focus/Organization, 35 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 30 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.