

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

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 Baseball Commissioner:

I think we need to get rid of the Designated Hitter rule. This rule offends most loyal baseball fans. It goes against the tradition of the game. It's up to you to restore the tradition and get rid of this rule.

I have always heard baseball called the thinking man's game. In fact, this is what its popularity has been built on. Baseball fans like to anticipate the decisions ball club managers makes. The game is all about strategy. The designated hitter rule does away with an important aspect of the game's strategy. This is the decision about when to keep a pitcher in the game and when to take him out. Say it's the sixth inning of the game and it is a close game and your team is behind by only a couple of runs and there are a couple of runners on base and the pitcher is a weak hitter. 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. With the designated hitter rule, this decision is made for him because each pitcher has the designated hitter to hit for him. I read an article where Bob Costas said that the DH rule is not worth perserving.

Supporters of the DH say it keeps the balance between offense and defense in the game. I think that this used to be true but now baseball scores are too high. Therefore, the DH rule no longer has a purpose.

The Commissioner should protect the tradition of baseball and make sure that baseball fans are happy. Doing away with the DH will accomplish both of these things.

Sincerely,

Joshua Wilson

Summary: *This letter includes a clear thesis statement, a call to action, and the writer's own opinions. However, the arguments lack adequate supporting evidence, and the language in the opening paragraph is concise but not compelling. The letter could be improved by offering credible support—for instance, by citing a specific quote from Bob Costas—to develop its argument and by using more compelling, persuasive language.*

This piece would probably receive a 3 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive an 87 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—33 points for Focus/Organization, 29 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 25 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

States thesis and call to action, but the writing is somewhat vague and choppy

Presents own opinion and example, but lacks sufficient support and transitions

Addresses opposing viewpoints, but opinion used as evidence is vague and weak

Conclusion summarizes argument.