

# Informative/Explanatory Example Essays

## Grades 5-6

*Essay scores are produced for the following grade ranges: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, and 11-12. Thus a fifth grade essay is compared to models for both fifth and sixth grades.*

**Prompt for Essays 1-3:** *Describe an activity that you like to do in your free time. Explain what about this activity makes it something you choose to do. Use examples and descriptive details to help the reader understand your choice.*

### Informative/Explanatory Essay 1: My Favorite Free-Time Activity

I like to play ball, all kinds. I am good and i can make baskets and i can takle and make tuchdowns and hit it so thats why i like free time.

I would play ball with my brother and frends and sometimes my cuzin but when i am home.

And my dad likes to watch football with me and my brother and my mom and we eat pizza when we watch. Its fun.

*Annotation:* *This essay has an organizational structure. Adding details to develop the ideas would greatly improve it.*

### Informative/Explanatory Essay 2: My Favorite Free-Time Activity

When I have free time I like to play all kinds of sports. My dad got me into sports when I was really little, and I have loved it ever since. Sports are good for many reasons. They are fun and they keep me healthy. I get lots of exercise when I am running after a ball, kicking it, or hitting it. I run track and swim, as well, so that I get a lot of really good workouts. It is important to be active so that you can stay healthy.

Sports also are good because they teach you to play with others in a good way. Bad sportsmanship is really bad manners, and so if you learn how to be a good sport you will also learn good manners. You can't always get your own way when you are playing sports, just like in real life. When you don't play well with your teammates, you will not win the game.

Sports is a good activity because you can always play something. In spring and summer, you can swim or play baseball. In the fall you can play football or soccer. In the winter, there is basketball. Of course, there is also tennis, golf, track, and lots of other sports – really, something for everyone. Even when you grow up, you can play team sports on a city team or individual sports by yourself or with a friend or two.

*Annotation:* *The writer has added good detail to support his ideas. Adding an introduction and a conclusion, as well as examples, would help improve the essay.*

### Informative/Explanatory Essay 3: My Favorite Free-Time Activity

My favorite free-time activity to do during my spare time is to play sports. Sports are a great pastime as they are fun, interactive, and good for the soul. Sports can also be challenging, good for your health, and they even bring people together as friends. Playing a Sport is by far, the most fun thing to do. There are many types of sports including basketball, soccer, ice hockey, and football. You can play a sport almost anywhere, on a jungle gym, in a field, and even in your driveway. You may think of sports only as a team game, and it is. However, I think the biggest reason why you should play sports is to get active. Sports can even teach you to work together.

Many sports teach you how to interact with others in a productive manner. For instance, in basketball the players pass the ball, they dribble the ball and then one of the players try to shoot the ball into the opposite teams hoop. This shows that everyone must play together to win. I have played basketball from the time I was five years old, and since then I have learned so many valuable lessons. Soccer is another cool sport. There are 11 players on the field and they try to kick the ball into the other team's goal. They can only use their feet, and they play for two forty-five minute halves. It is a really fun game that just about anyone can play. At my school, Keystone School, we play a lot of sports. We play during P.E., with a coach. We also play at break time for fun on the black-top. The black top is a large, paved area behind our cafeteria with two basketball hoops and two soccer goals. Sports are a big part of my life. All sports are interesting. They are really fun and they are really easy to play, and most sports you only need a couple of things to play. Sports are also a great way to stay in shape; playing sports helps to keep your body healthy.

Even though playing sports may seem to be time consuming; I don't find that to be the case. When I play on weekends it is early in the morning, and so that gives me the whole afternoon to concentrate on my homework. I can play sports and keep up with school work as well as a bunch of extra-curricular activities.

You can do this because sports have off-seasons. During the off-season you don't play that sport, and you play another sport. This really takes the load off, because you play one sport at a time. A few hours before playing a game, I usually eat a large meal. It usually consists of large servings of food that is high in carbohydrate and protein. I eat food rich in carbohydrate because it gives you energy. I eat several hours before the game because it gives just the right amount of time for the food to digest and you will also be full. This is a quote from one of my friends "Soccer is cool!" He loves to play sports.

I would really recommend playing sports. It is really fun and you may not think you are good but you may be great. Sports are a great way to get exercise. It's fun and good for your health. So why don't you go and play some sports during your free time?

*Annotation: This essay has plenty of details and examples to support the writer's points. The organization is clear, and the conclusion brings the essay to a satisfying close.*

**Prompt for Essays 4-6:** Write an informative/explanatory about an activity you think is difficult. Be sure to explain thoroughly what makes this activity challenging.

### Informative/Explanatory Essay 4: The Hardest Sport

Baseball is by far the hardest sport. Baseball makes use of thinking and strategy. You have to hit a round ball with a round bat. You don't just shoot the ball or kick the ball but you have to use strategy to get around the bases and be safe. You can steal bases if you are fast enough or you can make up plays. Then you have to know the signals. Pitchers throw different types of pitches that make it hard to hit the ball. There is a curve ball, a change-up ball, and a fast ball. The different pitches make it really hard, if not impossible to hit the ball.

The fielders have to play in different parts of the field, too. They can't just stay in one place. They have to catch the ball and throw it to the right base or to the pitcher. If they throw it to a base a batter is out if the ball is there first. So players need to know the rules of baseball to know where to throw the ball or when to tag the runner out.

*Annotation: This writer has the beginning of an explanation of why the sport of baseball is the hardest. However, for a full understanding, the writer needs to include a more complete explanation of how the game is played and why strategy is so important.*

### **Informative/Explanatory Essay 5: The Hardest Sport**

I believe that baseball is one of the very few sports that uses both thinking and planning. Baseball is by far the hardest sport. You have to hit a round ball with a round bat squarely. In most other sports you just have to score a goal and the team with the most goals at the end wins. But in baseball, you don't just shoot the ball or kick the ball, you have to use careful thinking to get around the bases safely. You can steal bases if you are fast enough. You can also make up plays like a "pick-off" to first base, which is when you are on base and need to advance. The batter tries to make sure he gets out at first so that you can have a better chance to get around the bases. You can also use signs to signal a batter to bunt or t or "hit and run," which means to swing no matter what.

Some pitchers throw several types of pitches to make it harder to hit the ball. There is a curve ball which drops and slides. There is a change-up pitch that is very slow. That makes it hard to time your swing. There is a fast ball that can come in at around 90 miles per hour! There are many other pitches that can be almost impossible to hit.

The fielders have to play in different parts of the field depending on what the batter is like. The batter can be a lefty or righty, meaning which hand they use. Righties usually hit the ball to the left side of the field and lefties usually hit it to the right side of the field. Sometimes the batter can hit it hard in places that the fielders aren't playing, which makes the fielders dive, jump and sometimes even duck to keep from getting hit in the face with a very fast, hard ball. Ouch!

If there are runners on base, the fielders can try to make a double play by touching two bases to try to get two runners out. A force out is when there is a runner on first or first and second or first and second and third. The fielders then only have to touch the base that a runner is advancing to. When it is not a force out, the fielders must tag the runner with the ball in their glove to get them out. So players need to know the rules of baseball to know where to throw the ball or when to tag the runner out.

The umpires have to know all the rules, too. They are the judges of the game. They decide if a pitch is fair or not. If it is fair, it is over the home plate and between the knees and shoulders. That is called a strike. If it is not a fair pitch, it is called a ball. Batters get to walk to a base if they get four balls. If they have three strikes they are out. Umpires also have to decide on things in the field. They decide if a player is safe or out. They have to really watch closely.

There are so many plays in baseball that players and umpires have to always be thinking. Some plays are even so confusing that the umpires don't even know if it is allowed. There has to be two to four umpires in every game just to keep up with all of the plays!

*Annotation: This essay includes a clear explanation of the sport of baseball and why it is challenging. The essay could be improved with stronger word choice and a conclusion that brings a better sense of closure to the essay.*

## Informative/Explanatory Essay 6: The Hardest Spot

Baseball is by far the hardest sport. I believe that baseball is one of the very few sports that involve the use of thinking and strategy. You have to hit a round ball with a round bat squarely. Most other sports involve just having to score a goal and the team with the most goals at the end wins. In most other sports, the team works together to score one goal, or prevent the other team from scoring. But in baseball, you have to score runs on your own, and you can also prevent a run by yourself. Of course, you still have to work as a team. In baseball, you don't just shoot the ball or kick the ball, you have to use strategy to get around the bases safely. You have to steal bases if you are fast enough. Even though a coach can help you decide when it is safe to steal, you have to watch carefully to know where the other players are. You have to remember to not run right away when another batter hits a fly, because if someone catches it and tags your base, you are out.

Some pitchers throw several types of pitches to make it harder to hit the ball. There is a curve ball which drops and slides. There is a change-up pitch that is very slow. That makes it hard to time your swing. There is a fast ball that can come in at around 90 miles per hour! There are many other pitches that can be almost impossible to hit.

The fielders have to play in different parts of the field depending on what the batter is like. The batter can be a lefty or righty, meaning which hand they use. Righties usually hit the ball to the left side of the field and lefties usually hit it to the right side of the field. Sometimes the batter can hit it hard in places that the fielders aren't playing, which makes the fielders dive, jump and sometimes even duck to keep from getting hit in the face with a very fast, hard ball. Ouch!

If there are runners on base, the fielders can try to make a double play by touching two bases to try to get two runners out. A force out is when there is a runner on first or first and second or first and second and third. The fielders then only have to touch the base that a runner is advancing to. When it is not a force out, the fielders must tag the runner with the ball in their glove to get them out. So players need to know the rules of baseball to know where to throw the ball or when to tag the runner out.

The umpires have to know all the rules, too. They are the judges of the game. They decide if a pitch is fair or not. If it is fair, it is over the home plate and between the knees and shoulders. That is called a strike. If it is not a fair pitch, it is called a ball. Batters get to walk to a base if they get four balls. If they have three strikes they are out. Umpires also have to decide on things in the field. They decide if a player is safe or out. They have to really watch closely.

There are so many plays in baseball that players and umpires have to always be thinking. Some plays are even so confusing that the umpires don't even know if it is allowed. There has to be two to four umpires in every game just to keep up with all of the plays!

There are certain plays that players have to know, like hit and run, which means to swing no matter what. A pickoff is when the pitcher tries to get a player out because they are off base because they are trying to steal or leading off. A bunt is when the batter just taps the ball so that the pitcher has to run up and get it, which gives the other runners more time to get to the next base.

Baseball players also have to be able to hit different kinds of pitches. Some pitchers throw several types of pitches, making it harder to hit the ball. There is a curve ball which drops and slides. There is a change-up that is very slow which makes it hard to time your swing. There is a fast ball that can come in at around 90 miles per hour! There are many other pitches that can be practically impossible to hit.

Another thing that makes baseball hard is that the fielders have to play in different parts of the field according to the batter. The fielders have to think and pay attention to the batter and to all the runners. The batter can be a lefty or righty. Righties usually hit it to the left side of the field and lefties usually hit it to the right side of the field. Sometimes the batter can hit it hard in places that the fielders aren't playing making the fielders dive, jump and sometimes duck to avoid getting lined in the face with a very hard ball. Ouch! If there are runners on base, the fielders can try to turn a double play by touching two bases to try to get two runners out. A force out is when there is a runner on first or first and second or first and second and third. The fielders then only have to touch the base that a runner is advancing to. When it is not a force out, the fielders must tag the runner with the ball in their glove to get them out. So players need to know the rules of baseball to know where to throw the ball or when to tag the runner out.

Then there are the signals. Each team has their own signals for plays. Sometimes these even change in one game, so players have to stay on their toes and pay attention. Coaches use the signals to players, but pitchers and catcher signal each other all the time, too. Also, a player might signal another player to let them know something about the batter and how he bats.

Baseball can look really easy, but it takes a lot of thinking and strategy to be good at it. There have to be two to four umpires in every game just to keep up with all of the plays, and some plays are even so confusing that the umpires don't even know if it is allowed.

*Annotation: The additional details and examples in this essay and the clear, satisfying conclusion make this an excellent example of an informative/explanatory essay.*

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