

**PERSUASIVE  
ESSAY: WHY  
SPORTS  
MATTER**



First, produce your own definition of being a good sport; the following prompts will help you do that.

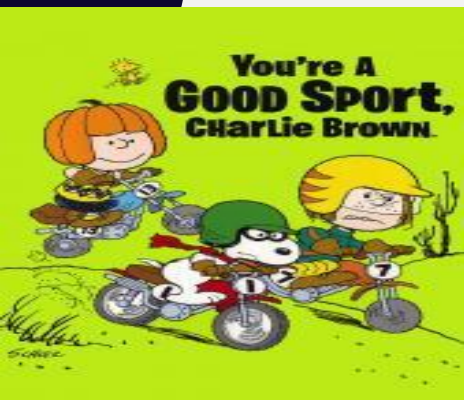
1. There's a new kid on your hockey team who's just learning the game. He gives the puck to the other team by mistake and they score a goal. What do you do?

2. Jackson is organizing a game of basketball at recess with a few other boys. Camila runs over with her ball and says she'd like to join. Jackson tells her their game is just for boys. What do you do?

3. Your team hits a game-winning homerun. Everyone is jumping up and down and celebrating at home plate. You see the opposing team's pitcher still standing on the mound. He is upset and has his face in his glove. What do you do?



4. You're running in an 800-meter race. As you near the finish line, you and one other runner are right next to each other. You see the other runner's foot cross the finish line first. But officials say that you won. What do you do?



# AGREE/DISAGREE

- There are more to sports than winning?
- Sports can change the world.
- Playing a sport teaches you important life lessons.
- Being a good sport matters on and off the field.



# CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

When Spanish runner Ivan Fernandez Anaya made headlines in 2012, it was not for winning. Instead, he was

Celebrated for choosing honesty over victory. During a race, he showed another runner the way to the finish line rather than passing him and earning first place. For Fernandez Anaya, it was an easy decision. The other runner was the “rightful winner,” he later said.

Can you think of any stories you know that shows kindness in sports aka good sportsmanship?



**GIVE IT  
YOUR ALL**



**ACT WITH  
INTEGRITY**



**HELP  
OTHERS**

**HOW  
TO BE A  
GOOD  
SPORT**

Your actions  
matter on the  
field—and  
in life!



**BE A TEAM  
PLAYER**

PROFESSIONAL  
ATHLETES ARE  
NOT THE ONLY  
ONES WHO FACE  
SPORTSMANSHIP  
DILEMMAS.  
STUDENT  
ATHLETES DO  
AS WELL.  
THINK: WHAT  
DO EACH OF  
THESE TIPS TO  
BE A GOOD  
SPORT MEAN?



Brainstorm: What are the “Top Five Rules for Being a Good Sport?”



Think: How do the rules of being a good sport apply to situations in or out of school?

**Your essay is to write a 400-500 word essay (that's about 1 and a half to two pages typed) about sportsmanship. Use one of the following two prompts to write your essay.**

A. How has sports positively impacted you or someone important to you?

OR

B. How has someone in the world of sports inspired you?

<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
Topic: Essay shows why sports matter, focusing on either the positive impact of sports or an inspiring person from the sports world.	10
Claims: Persuasive claims about the essay topic are clear and powerful. Claims are supported with reasons and/or evidence.	5
Organization: Ideas are organized in a clear, logical way	5
Conclusion: Essay includes a persuasive conclusion that wraps up the ideas presented in previous paragraphs.	5
Language: Spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, paragraphing, and creative title, show careful editing.	10



## FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

1. Do I have to do this?
2. What's in it for me?
3. How will I submit the essay?
4. When is it due?
5. Do I have to double-space?



1. First, yes, you must complete this assignment.
2. We are going to submit your essays to Scholastics. The contest is supported by Dick's Sporting Goods. The first-place winner receives a \$500 gift card. Two grand prize winners will receive \$250.
3. The same as all of your other assignments. I'll send them in to Scholastic
4. Next Wednesday, 4/22
5. Yes. Use MLA Formatting – 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, etc.