

Lesson | LIFE LESSONS FROM SPORTS

Inspire students to reflect on and write about sports lessons that matter both on and off the field.

Objective

Students will use critical thinking to define what being a good sport means, then plan and write an essay about why sports matter.

Standards

Common Core, ELA

- SL.4-5.1 Engage in collaborative discussions and express ideas clearly

SEL

- Responsible decision-making
- Relationship skills

Time

40 minutes, plus writing time

Materials

- How to Be a Good Sport mini-poster
- Are You a Good Sport? activity sheet
- Write About Why Sports Matter activity sheet
- Get in the Game choice chart
- A ball

Need more copies?

Printer-friendly versions are available online at scholastic.com/sportsmatter.

1 Conduct a classroom barometer activity by having students listen to a series of statements. Follow these activity steps:

- Read Statement 1 (below) aloud. Instruct students to stand at one end of the room if they agree and at the other end if they disagree.
- Toss the ball to a student. Have them explain why they agree or disagree, then toss the ball to another student to do the same.

- Invite students to change the side of the room they are standing on if their classmate's explanation changes their mind.
- Have the last student toss the ball back to you, then read the next statement.

Statements: 1) *There's more to sports than winning.* 2) *Sports can change the world.* 3) *Playing a sport teaches you important life lessons.* 4) *Being a good sport matters on and off the field.*

- To support English language learners, post each statement on the board.

2 Read the following story aloud:

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 said.

Ask students to share any similar stories they know of. Then ask whether the stories change where they stand on the statements.

3 Tell students that professional athletes are not the only ones who face sportsmanship dilemmas. Student athletes do too. Display the How to Be a Good Sport mini-poster and discuss the tips (applying

Essay Contest

Submit your students' persuasive essays on why sports matter by April 24, 2020.

You could win:

- ▶ **\$500 gift cards** for the Grand Prize winning student and teacher!
- ▶ **\$250 gift cards** for the winning students and teachers in both the grades 4–5 and grades 6–7 categories!

Go to scholastic.com/sportsmatter for more information.

them both on and off the field). Challenge the class to define the “Act With Integrity” tip. Arrive at a definition such as: acting honestly and sticking to your principles/values.

4 Hand out the Are You a Good Sport? activity sheet. Give students time to read each scenario and write about how they would respond. Then ask: *Which situation was the hardest to answer? Why?*

5 Divide the class into small groups. Give each group a sheet of chart paper, and have them come up with their own “Top Five Rules for Being a Good Sport.” Have groups share their rules with the class. Ask: *How do the rules of being a good sport apply to other situations in or out of school?*

6 Hand out the Write About Why Sports Matter activity sheet. Have students choose a prompt, then plan and craft a persuasive essay to submit to the contest.

Differentiated Extensions

Hand out the Get in the Game choice chart, which offers extension options for students to complete if they finish work early or between tasks. Display students' work in a Why Sports Matter gallery in the classroom, hall, or gym.

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. The “Sports Matter Student Essay Contest” is open to students in grades 4–7, 50 US states & DC. Students will write an essay on two possible topics about sports on the entry form available at scholastic.com/sportsmatter. Entries must be submitted by the student's teacher, 18+. Prizes: Grand Prize Winner: \$500 Amex Gift Card (ARV: \$500). Grand Prize Winner's teacher: \$500 Amex Gift Card. Grade Winners, two (2) total, one (1) from grades 4–5 and one (1) from grades 6–7, \$250 Amex Gift Card. Grade Winners' teachers: \$250 Amex Gift Card. Online entries submitted at scholastic.com/sportsmatter, or by mail to: Sports Matter Student Contest, ATTN: SNP, 3rd Floor, Scholastic Inc., 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012. Online entries deadline 11:59 p.m. ET on April 24, 2020 (the “Entry Period”). Mail-in: postmarked by 4/24/20, and rec'd by 5/1/20. Void where prohibited. Subject to Official Rules: scholastic.com/sportsmatter/rules.



Name _____

ARE YOU A GOOD SPORT?



Explain how you would handle three sticky situations.

1 You're at a swim meet after school. A kid on the other team keeps shouting insults about your teammates from the sidelines. What do you do?

2 You're playing baseball and the game is tied. One of your outfielders misses a fly ball and the other team scores a run to win the game. You feel kind of mad at your teammate for messing up. What do you do?

3 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. You're standing nearby. What do you do?
