



Professional Athletes and the Average Worker

By: Amanda Martin
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Sports
Grades 9–12



Introduction

Should professional athletes make millions to play a sport? Is this fair to the average American worker? Students will write a persuasive essay arguing whether or not the large salary of professional athletes is appropriate.

Learning Objectives

([CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.1](#)) Students will write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Materials Needed

- Computers/laptops
- Journals/notebooks/paper

Procedure

1. On the board, display the following question: *Should professional athletes be paid substantial amounts of money to play a sport?* Lead an organized discussion on this question and allow several students to share out their thoughts.
2. Display [this chart of average salaries](#) in America on the board. Ask students the following question: *Should professional athletes be paid more than doctors, police officers, military members, etc.? Why or why not?* Discuss a few student responses as a class. Ensure that the importance of each career is detailed for the students as well.
3. Inform students that they will write a persuasive text in response to that question. They must include at least three supporting paragraphs, an introductory paragraph, and a conclusion. Use the rubric below to grade student work.

Evaluation

Please use the following rubric to evaluate each student's essay.

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Professional Athletes Persuasive Essay	4 (Excellent)	3 (Good)	2 (Okay)	1 (Needs Improvement)
<i>1. The student accurately supports his/her viewpoint.</i>				
<i>2. The student provides supporting statements.</i>				
<i>3. The student provides a concluding statement that supports the claims presented on his/her viewpoint.</i>				
<i>4. The student uses correct grammar and punctuation.</i>				