



RULE of 3 RAP

DISCOVER

Student Benchmarks Level 3

To the Teacher

- * These reading and writing benchmarks have been reformatted for the students. The benchmarks are to be used at the end of every unit. The benchmark assessments review the words and the standards.



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DISCOVER Unit 2: Student Benchmark Reading

Directions for Reading Main Ideas and Key Details:

1. Read to a partner the two passages about Little League Baseball and the American Youth Soccer Organization.

2. Underline in the passage the following Power Words from Unit 2. Work with a partner.

understood, plan, boasting, building, run, social, spotting, gripping, relate, unusual, meaning, distance, annual, way, sell, whole, pages, schedule, summary, solve

3. Complete the direct and inferred evidence worksheet with a partner.



DISCOVER Little League Baseball and the American Youth Soccer Organization

Little League Baseball

¹ Do you like to play baseball? Are you a good pitcher? Do you love getting up to bat to hit a home run? Can you hit the ball a long distance? If you answered yes to these questions, you may want to join a Little League Baseball team. There are Little League Baseball teams across the United States. There are Little League teams for both girls and boys.

History of Little League Baseball

² Little League Baseball was started in 1939 by a man named Carl Stotz for children ages 4-18. The pages of the encyclopedia note that the first Little League Baseball World Series was played in 1947. At first, the Little League Baseball Leagues had only boy players. Then, in 1950, an unusual girl decided she would find a way to join the team.

³ Kathryn Johnston created a plan to get on the team. First, she decided she must look and act like the other boys on the team. Second, she decided she must call herself another name.

⁴ So, Kathryn tucked her hair under her hat and adopted the nickname "Tubby." Then she joined the Kings Dairy Little League team in Corning, N.Y., posing as a boy. After a few weeks, she told her coach that she was a girl. The coach replied, "That's OK; you're a very good player." The coach told Kathryn that he understood how much she wanted to play on the team.

⁵ Kathryn played at first base for the baseball season. She had to leave the team the following year because she turned 13.

⁶ Today, there are nearly 360,000 girls who play on Little League teams. One girl named Eliska Stejskalova was the only girl on one of the Little League Baseball teams in 2013. Her coaches say she is one of the best baseball players they have seen.

⁷ Today, it doesn't matter today whether you are a boy or a girl. You can join a Little League Baseball team. Baseball is one of best team sports. It is great fun to play baseball. There are many skills you learn when you are on a Little League Baseball team.





⁸You learn how to relate to other players and how to become a good sport. You learn that you must accept winning as well as losing. In summary, there are many good reasons why you should join a Little League Baseball team.

Five Reasons to Join a Little League Baseball Team

1. The first reason is that you will learn baseball skills. You will learn the importance of spotting the ball, covering the bases and backing up your teammates. You will learn how gripping the bat in a certain way helps you hit the ball.
2. Secondly, you will learn sportsmanship. You will learn how to “play fair” and follow the rules. You will also learn to help your fellow teammates and cheer them on. You will learn the game rules as well as the social practices of sportsmanship.
3. Thirdly, you will learn teamwork. It takes nine players to play baseball. Each one of the players is important for a team to win the game. Therefore, players must work together.
4. The fourth reason is that you will become a good winner and a good loser. Little League coaches always tell the players, it doesn’t matter whether you win or lose. The coaches say what matters is how you play the game. Coaches recommend building good friendships, rather than boasting.
5. Finally, you will make great friendships with other players on the team. Baseball players on Little League teams come from different schools and social backgrounds. Despite this fact, they become true friends. These five reasons make baseball the greatest sport to play.

⁹ In addition to these reasons, Little League Baseball is a great sport to watch because the game is not over until it is over. Unlike other sports, baseball forces the winning team to continue to pitch and play defense. This means no game is over until the final out is made.

¹⁰ Any Little League Baseball team can make a comeback at any time. With other sports, this is not necessarily the case. In football, you don't see many teams score five straight times to tie a game. There is no clock in Little League Baseball. As long as a team is willing to fight, they are still in the game.

¹¹ Little League Baseball has milestones every year. The year 2014 had two significant milestones with special meaning. First, the year 2014 marks the 75th anniversary of the first Little League season ever played.

¹² Second, the 2014 Little League Baseball World Series had over 40,000 people who watched the games.





American Youth Soccer Organization

¹ Do you love to play soccer? Did you know that soccer is considered one of the best sports in the world? Did you realize that soccer was played over 2,000 years ago? Soccer is a world-class sport because it has a vivid and interesting history.

The History of Soccer

² Soccer was played in China over 2,000 years ago. People played the game by kicking a leather ball filled with hair into a small net.

³ Hundreds of years ago, the Greeks and Romans played a game similar to soccer. It was in England, however, that the game of modern soccer really began. The original soccer game, also known as football in England, used a soccer ball that was an animal's blown-up bladder or a hog's head. Early soccer was a wild game with very few rules. Kicking, pushing, tripping and pulling hair were allowed.

⁴ The rules for soccer were written in 1863 in England. The rules stated that the players could not handle the ball, kick other players or pull their hair.

⁵In 1913 the American Soccer League, known as the United States Football Association, was started. The first World Cup began in the early 1900s in South America. The sport of soccer became more and more popular every year. There were annual soccer matches.

History of Soccer Games for Youth

⁶The American Youth Soccer Organization, for children ages 4 through 19, was started over 50 years ago in 1964 in Torrance, California. Today the soccer organization has 50,000 teams and over 630,000 players.

⁷There are soccer teams across the United States. If you love to play soccer, you are welcome to join one of the soccer teams in your city. There are many reasons to join a local soccer team.

Reasons to Join a Soccer Team

1. The first reason to join a soccer team is that the game of soccer is fun and exiting. It is a year-round sport so you can play the game the whole year.
2. Secondly, the game is great exercise. It develops a high level of aerobic endurance and muscular ability. Remaining fit is important in soccer. Players need to run up and down the field. They need to move at various speeds and in many directions. Players cannot tire easily.
3. Thirdly, soccer is easy to learn to play and develops many skills. Soccer players learn the skills of kicking and blocking. They learn strategic moves. They learn how to solve problems and to think creatively. This creative thinking enables them to make moves that get them get past the other team's defense.





4. The fourth reason is that size doesn't matter in soccer. You don't have to be tall or big to play soccer.

5. The fifth reason is that unlike football, there is not a lot of equipment you need to buy to join a soccer team. It can be played by everyone with just a soccer ball.

6. Finally, soccer teaches teamwork and good sportsmanship. Soccer players learn how to play with others to achieve a goal. Playing the game of soccer teaches you that each player is important in winning the game. It also teaches players the sportsmanship of becoming good winners as well as good losers.

⁸ Finally, soccer is a great sport to play, whether it is for fun or as part of competitive games. Soccer, like Little League Baseball, has an American Youth organization. There are national competitions. The national youth tournament is a lot like the World Cup.

⁹ The teams start off in a series of round-robin games which are followed by a schedule of playoffs. The winning teams play in the national championship games. One difference between the National Youth Soccer League and the World Cup games is that in addition to the number of goals scored, teams can earn points based on good sportsmanship. The biggest trophy will go to the team with the best sportsmanship.

DISCOVER Unit 2: Reading Benchmark



Directions:

- ✓ Find the direct or inferred evidence in the passage to support each statement.
- ✓ Highlight the sentence or sentences in the passage that give the direct or inferred evidence to support each statement.
- ✓ Read and discuss your answers with a partner.

Use the Stoplight Evidence-Based Reading Poster.

Direct Evidence: The facts are directly stated in the passage.
Underline the sentences in green.

Inferred Evidence: The ideas are inferred in the passage.
Underline the sentences in yellow.

1. Girls can play on Little League Baseball teams.

Is the evidence direct or inferred?

Evidence: _____

2. Little League Baseball was started more than 70 years ago.

Is the evidence direct or inferred?

Evidence: _____

3. Soccer is a very old game that was played in many countries.

Is the evidence direct or inferred?

Evidence: _____

4. Soccer is both a cooperative and a competitive game.

Is the evidence direct or inferred?

Evidence: _____

Opinion Writing: Signal Words and Phrases

| | | |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| INTRODUCTION PHRASES | | |
| In my opinion I believe | From my point of view It seems to me that | |
| SUPPORTING OPINIONS | | |
| First Furthermore | In addition In the first place | also finally |
| INTRODUCING DETAILS | | |
| For example | For instance | In fact |
| CAUSE AND EFFECT | | |
| Since For this reason | As a result of | Therefore |
| COMPARE AND CONTRAST | | |
| Similarly Compared to On the other hand | Nevertheless | as well as The same as |
| COUNTERING | | |
| I realize you I understand you | believe feel want support | but yet however |
| SUMMARIZE | | |
| In summary | On the whole | |

TRANSITIONAL Phrases that can be used with Opinion Writing



When you want to start an example or illustration:

American Youth Soccer is a competitive sport. For example, there are national youth tournaments which are a lot like the World Cup.

Players do not need to be tall to play soccer. For instance, some players are only a little over 5 feet tall.

When you want to contrast one thing with another:

Little League baseball is a great sport that is played during the baseball season. However, soccer is played all year long.

My soccer team lost the game. Nevertheless, we had a wonderful time.

When you want to add another idea:

The American Youth Soccer Organization was started over 50 years ago. Furthermore, the American Youth Soccer Organization was started in Torrance, California.

The World Cup in American Youth Soccer is an important game. Moreover, the World Cup is viewed by many people.

When you want to show that one thing causes another:

The coach is important in baseball. Therefore, the players follow his lead.

As a result of his injury, the soccer player could no longer play in the game.

The soccer player spends three hours at the gym. As a result, he is in good athletic shape.

When you want to summarize or generalize:

Soccer is a great game, but, on the whole, baseball is more fun to watch.

Soccer is viewed on television all over the world. In summary, it is a very popular sport.



Transitional Phrases for Opinion Writing

| To start an example or illustration | To contrast one thing with another | To add another idea | To show one thing causes another | To summarize or generalize |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|
| For example For instance | However Even so Nevertheless | Furthermore In addition Moreover | Consequently As a result Therefore | On the whole In summary |

Directions

✓ Write the correct transition word or phrase in each sentence.

✓ Read the sentences to a partner.

1. When you want to start an example or illustration:

Little League Baseball is a popular sport for girls as well as boys.
_____, in 2014, nearly 360,000 girls played on Little League teams.

Soccer started as a dangerous sport. _____, soccer players years ago were allowed to trip and pull their opponents' hair.

2. When you want to contrast one thing with another:

Little League Baseball is a great game. _____, soccer is more popular around the world.

Many Little League Baseball teams have great players. _____, the Little League teams do not always win games.

Our soccer team lost the game. _____, we had a wonderful time.

3. When you want to add another idea:

Soccer is fun to watch. _____, there are soccer games year-round.

The Youth Soccer World Cup is an important soccer game. _____, the World Cup is watched by many people.

Little League Baseball is an exciting sport! _____, it appeals to both boys and girls.

4. When you want to show that one thing causes another:

It is important to be in good shape to play soccer. _____, players work out every day.

The baseball player made a homerun. _____, the team won.

5. When you want to summarize or generalize:

Soccer is a great game that can be played all year long. _____, it is not a seasonal sport.

DISCOVER Transitional Phrases Directions:

- ✓ Write an opinion word or phrase in each of the sentences.
- ✓ Review your sentences with a partner.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Furthermore In addition to Finally | For example For instance Therefore As a result | Next However Nevertheless |
|---|---|--|

1. The baseball player made a homerun. _____
_____ his homerun, two more players hit home runs.
2. Soccer started as a dangerous sport. _____
_____, soccer players were allowed to trip and
pull other players' hair.
3. The soccer team made two goals. _____, they
lost the game.
4. The Little League team played ten competitive games.
_____, they lost game after game.
5. Little League Baseball players practice with their teams
every week. _____, they play practice
games with other teams.
6. The soccer player spends three hours at the gym. _____
_____ he is in good shape.
7. Girls play Little League Baseball. _____
there are 360,000 girls who play baseball today
8. _____, at the end of the game Mike scored a
homerun.
9. The soccer player runs to first base. _____, he runs
to second base.
10. The Youth Soccer World Cup is an important game.
_____, the winning team gets a trophy.





DISCOVER Unit 2: Student Benchmark Writing

Student Directions for the Opinion-Writing Prompt

Writing Prompt: *In your opinion, is it better to join a Little League Baseball team or an American Youth Soccer team?*

Use facts and reasons to support your opinion.

1. Re-read the articles on Little League Baseball and the American Youth Soccer Organization.

2. Write a paragraph giving your opinion on whether it is better to join a Little League Baseball team or a soccer team.

3. Write one paragraph.

4. Read the Steps for Opinion Writing with a partner.

Follow these steps in your writing.

1. State an opinion.

2. State three reasons to support the opinion.

3. Provide some sense of closure.

Restate the opinion in a different way.

5. Use the Opinion Writing Graphic Organizer to plan your writing.

6. Use the Writing Checklist from your DISCOVER Student Book to check your punctuation and capitalization.

7. Use the Opinion Writing Rubric with a partner to score your writing.

Opinion Writing




Steps for Opinion Writing

1. State an opinion.
2. State three reasons to support the opinion.
3. Provide some sense of closure.
Restate the opinion in a different way.

Vocabulary

- I think
- I feel
- I like... / I don't like...

EXAMPLE of Opinion Writing Outline:

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>First fold or box</p> <p>Do you think it is best to become an astronaut or an airline pilot?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students state an opinion in a sentence. <i>I think it is best to be an astronaut.</i> • Students draw a picture of an astronaut or an airline pilot.  | <p>3rd fold or box</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Provides some sense of closure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students restate their opinion in a different way. • I think it would be great to become an astronaut who is serves as a crew member on spacecrafts that explore outer space.  |
| <p>2nd fold or box</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Students state three reasons to support their opinion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students illustrate the reasons.  <p>Reasons: • An astronaut is trained by a human spaceflight program to become a crew member on a spacecraft.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An astronaut as a crew member on a spacecraft helps establish international space stations. • An astronaut studies distant galaxies and looks for alternative energy sources. | <p>EXAMPLE of Opinion Writing</p> <p>Students write the title in capital letters. Students indent the first line of the paragraph. Students use the Opinion Writing Rubric to check their writing.</p> <p>This is an example of third-grade opinion writing that states an opinion, states three reasons to support the opinion and finally provides some sense of closure.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Becoming an Astronaut</p> <p>I think It is best to become an astronaut. An astronaut is trained by a human spaceflight program to become a crew member on a spacecraft. An astronaut as a crew member on a spacecraft helps establish international space stations. An astronaut studies distant galaxies and looks for alternative energy sources. I think it would be great to become an astronaut who serves as a crew member on spacecrafts that explore outer space.</p> |

Opinion Writing Graphic Organizer

Topic or Title:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

Opinion:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

Reasons: State three reasons to support your opinion.

| Reason | Reason | Reason |
|--------|--------|--------|
| | | |

Conclusion: Restate your opinion in a different way.

| |
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| |
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Opinion Writing Rubric

| Writing Quality | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| Topic sentence that states opinion | My paragraph has a topic sentence that clearly states my opinion. | My paragraph has a topic sentence that states my opinion. | My paragraph has a topic sentence that does not clearly state my opinion. | My paragraph has no topic sentence that states my opinion. |
| Supporting facts and reasons to back up opinion | My writing has clear facts and reasons to support my opinion. | My writing has facts and reasons to support my opinion. | My writing has some facts and reasons to support my opinion. | My writing has no facts or reasons to support my opinion. |
| Persuasive language | My writing uses many persuasive words and phrases (e.g., should, shouldn't). | My writing uses some persuasive words. | My writing uses very few persuasive words and phrases. | My writing uses no persuasive words or phrases. |
| Conclusion | My conclusion clearly restates my opinion. | My conclusion restates my opinion. | My conclusion doesn't restate my opinion. | My conclusion is missing or is not clear. |
| Grammar and punctuation | My writing has correct capitalization, punctuation and no spelling errors. | My writing has correct capitalization, punctuation and very few spelling errors. | My writing has some correct capitalization and punctuation. I have some misspelled words. | My writing does not have correct capitalization and punctuation. I have many misspelled words. |