

Observations on Common Core Reading & Writing Assignment “Should Everybody Get a Trophy?”

Observations on Common Core Reading & Writing Assignment “Should Everybody Get a Trophy?”

Know Your Transitions

Transitions

1. enhance the logical organization and understandability of your essay
2. show relationships
3. improve the connections between your thoughts

Know Your Transitions

Transitions

1. enhance the logical organization and understandability of your essay
2. show relationships
3. improve the connections between your thoughts

Know Your Transitions: Logical Organization

* Appropriate First Body Paragraph Transitions:

- * To begin with,
- * First and foremost
- * Generally speaking,
- * First of all,

Example: To begin with, the practice of giving trophies to all participants in a sport regardless of actual physical prowess is sending kids a wrong message.

* Appropriate Second Body Paragraph Transitions:

- * Furthermore,
- * Likewise,
- * In addition,

Example: Furthermore, trophies-for-all actually lowers children's self esteem.

* Appropriate Third Body Paragraph Transitions:

- * As a final point,
- * Finally,
- * Lastly,

Example: As a final point, children will lack motivation to stay physically fit if trophies are given to everyone.

Know Your Transitions: Relationships

Transitions help show the relationship between the author's main idea and supporting details.

* To show that you are adding to the main idea, try using these transitions:

* Additionally,

* As a matter of fact,

Example: To begin with, the practice of giving trophies to all participants in a sport regardless of actual physical prowess is sending kids the wrong message. As a matter of fact, it is teaching them that life requires minimal effort to be successful.

* To show that you are introducing evidence in support of your claim:

* For instance,

* To illustrate this point,

Example: For instance, think of a child who has a room full of trophies that he brags about to all of his friends, yet he sat on the bench most of the season. When he grows up, he will think that just showing up for work will get him recognition and praise.

Know Your Transitions: Improving Connections

Help the reader understand how your ideas work.

* To clarify (help prevent your reader from getting confused), try these transitions:

* In other words,

* To put it another way

Example: In other words, he never learned that rewards require hard work, dedication, and skill.

* To address the counterclaim, try these transitions:

* Even though

* However,

Example: Even though I understand there are people who disagree with my opinion, I still believe that we are sending the wrong message to athletes when we give trophies to everyone just for showing up.

* To refute the counterclaim, try these transitions:

* Above all

* Indeed

* Besides

- Example: Above all, we need to teach children the basic principles of success, and “Everyone is a winner” is not on the list!

Put the Puzzle Together!

To begin with, the practice of giving trophies to all participants in a sport regardless of actual physical prowess is sending kids a wrong message. As a matter of fact, it is teaching them that life requires minimal effort to be successful. For instance, think of a child who has a room full of trophies that he brags about to all of his friends, yet he sat on the bench most of the season. When he grows up, he will think that just showing up for work will get him recognition and praise. In other words, he never learned that rewards require hard work, dedication, and skill. Even though I understand there are people who disagree with my opinion, I still believe that we are sending the wrong message to athletes when we give trophies to everyone just for showing up. Above all, we need to teach children the basic principles of success, and “Everyone is a winner” is not on the list!

Are You Presenting a Counterclaim or a Contradiction?

Counterclaim – A claim or opinion that would be made by someone who disagrees with your opinion or claim. An opinion that is the opposite of yours.

Contradiction – Presenting two opposing ideas as if they are both true

Example:

My claim: To begin with, the practice of giving trophies to all participants in a sport regardless of actual physical prowess is sending kids a wrong message. As a matter of fact, it is teaching them that life requires minimal effort to be successful.

Someone Else's Counterclaim: Giving trophies to all participants is good because it protects innocent children from the harsh reality of adulthood.

Presenting a Counterclaim

Rule #1: Don't make the counterclaim look better than YOUR claim!!!!

Even though there is no doubt that giving trophies to all of our precious angels protects sweet, innocent children from the harsh, cruel reality of adulthood, it's wrong.

Note: Ummm.....now I feel bad for all the "precious angels" if I agree with you, which I was doing until you convinced me otherwise with all the loaded words.

Rule #2: Don't make a contradiction instead of addressing the counterclaim.

Contradiction: There is no doubt that giving trophies to all the participants is good because it protects innocent children from the harsh reality of adulthood. Giving trophies to everyone is wrong.

Addressing the Counterclaim: Even though I understand there are people who think they are protecting children, I still believe that we are sending the wrong message to athletes when we give trophies to everyone just for showing up.