How to Play a Sport Writing

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Informative writing **explains** or **teaches** with facts. Start with a **topic sentence**, give **three details**, and finish with a **closing sentence**.

Linking words: *First ... Next ... Also ... Finally ...*



1. Soccer or basketball?

Circle the sport each fact is about.

1	Players kick the ball into a net.	soccer	basketball
2	Players bounce the ball as they run.	soccer	basketball
3	A goalie guards the net.	soccer	basketball
4	Players shoot the ball through a hoop.	soccer	basketball
5	Most players cannot touch the ball with their hands.	soccer	basketball
6	Each team has five players on the court.	soccer	basketball

2. Topic and closing sentences

Circle the best sentence.

1. Which is the best topic sentence?

(a) Soccer is a team game that is easy to learn.
(b) My shoes are new.
(c) I watched TV last night.

2. Which is the best closing sentence?

(a) The grass is green.
(b) Kick the ball.
(c) Once you know these rules, you are ready to play soccer.

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3. Plan your paragraph

Choose a sport you know. Explain how to play it to someone who has never played before. Plan first. Write short notes.

Topic sentence: what will you explain?

Detail 1

Detail 2

Detail 3

Closing sentence

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4. Write your paragraph

Use your plan. Indent the first line.

Prompt: Choose a sport you know. Explain how to play it to someone who has never played before.

Check: ☐ Topic sentence ☐ Three facts or details ☐ Linking words (first, also, finally) ☐ Closing sentence ☐ Capitals and periods

Answer Key

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1. Soccer or basketball?

1	Players kick the ball into a net.	**soccer**	basketball
2	Players bounce the ball as they run.	soccer	**basketball**
3	A goalie guards the net.	**soccer**	basketball
4	Players shoot the ball through a hoop.	soccer	**basketball**
5	Most players cannot touch the ball with their hands.	**soccer**	basketball
6	Each team has five players on the court.	soccer	**basketball**

2. Topic and closing sentences

1. Which is the best topic sentence?

- **a** **Soccer is a team game that is easy to learn.**
- b My shoes are new.
- c I watched TV last night.

2. Which is the best closing sentence?

- a The grass is green.
- b Kick the ball.
- **c** **Once you know these rules, you are ready to play soccer.**

3. Plan your paragraph

Sample notes. Answers will vary.

Topic sentence: what will you explain?

soccer: a team game that is easy to learn

Detail 1

you need: a ball, two goals, two teams

Detail 2

rules: kick or head the ball, no hands except the goalie

Detail 3

to win: score the most goals by kicking the ball into the net

Closing sentence

know the rules, ready to play

Model Answer

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4. Write your paragraph

A model answer to share with students. Their writing will be different.

Soccer is a team game that is easy to learn. To play, you need a ball, two goals and two teams. Players move the ball by kicking it or bouncing it off their head, but they cannot touch it with their hands. Only the goalie can use their hands to stop the ball. A team scores a goal by kicking the ball into the other team's net, and the team with the most goals wins. Once you know these rules, you are ready to play soccer.