

College Athletes Should Play for No Pay

by Sheldon K.

If colleges make money from their sports programs, should college athletes get paid? That question has been around for more than a century, and with the big money colleges receive for television deals, it's more important than ever. Currently, college players do not receive money for playing their sport. They shouldn't, because paying student-athletes would change not only the game but also the value of the education they receive. In addition, it would cause a greater imbalance among the different sports programs at a school as well as the students who play in them.

Students should go to college to learn. Most student-athletes do. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), which governs college athletics, says student-athletes receive great benefits. According to them, the percentage of student-athletes who graduate from college is greater than for other students. In addition, many athletes receive scholarships to cover the cost of their education, which can total more than \$100,000. Having a college diploma and getting your education paid for are both valuable benefits. Student athletes don't need more.

Paying athletes would actually hurt athletics, because it would affect the way players on a team relate to one another. If

some players got paid more than others, jealousy could become a serious problem, and if everyone received the same amount of money, the better players might become resentful. In his article about college sports, writer Taylor Branch explains that in 1939 many student-athletes got paid. At one school, freshman football players received less than the older players, so the freshman refused to play. In order to win, teams need to be unified. Money would divide teammates and teams—just as it did in 1939.

In addition, determining how to pay athletes would certainly be unfair. Major sports such as football and men’s basketball often bring in a significant amount of money for colleges. Other student-athletes work and train just as hard as these players, but their sports are less popular and don’t make as much money. Should players be paid based on how hard they work or how much money their sport earns for the school? Or should all athletes receive the same amount? There is no good answer to these questions. Many people are bound to be upset no matter what decisions are made, so the best approach is not to pay anyone.

Finally, the most important reason that college students should not be paid for playing is because it is not necessary. Student-athletes play because they are passionate. Most know they will never be professional athletes, but they practice just as hard as their teammates. That is how it should be. In college,

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students should focus on their education. They should get paid only when and if they become professional athletes.

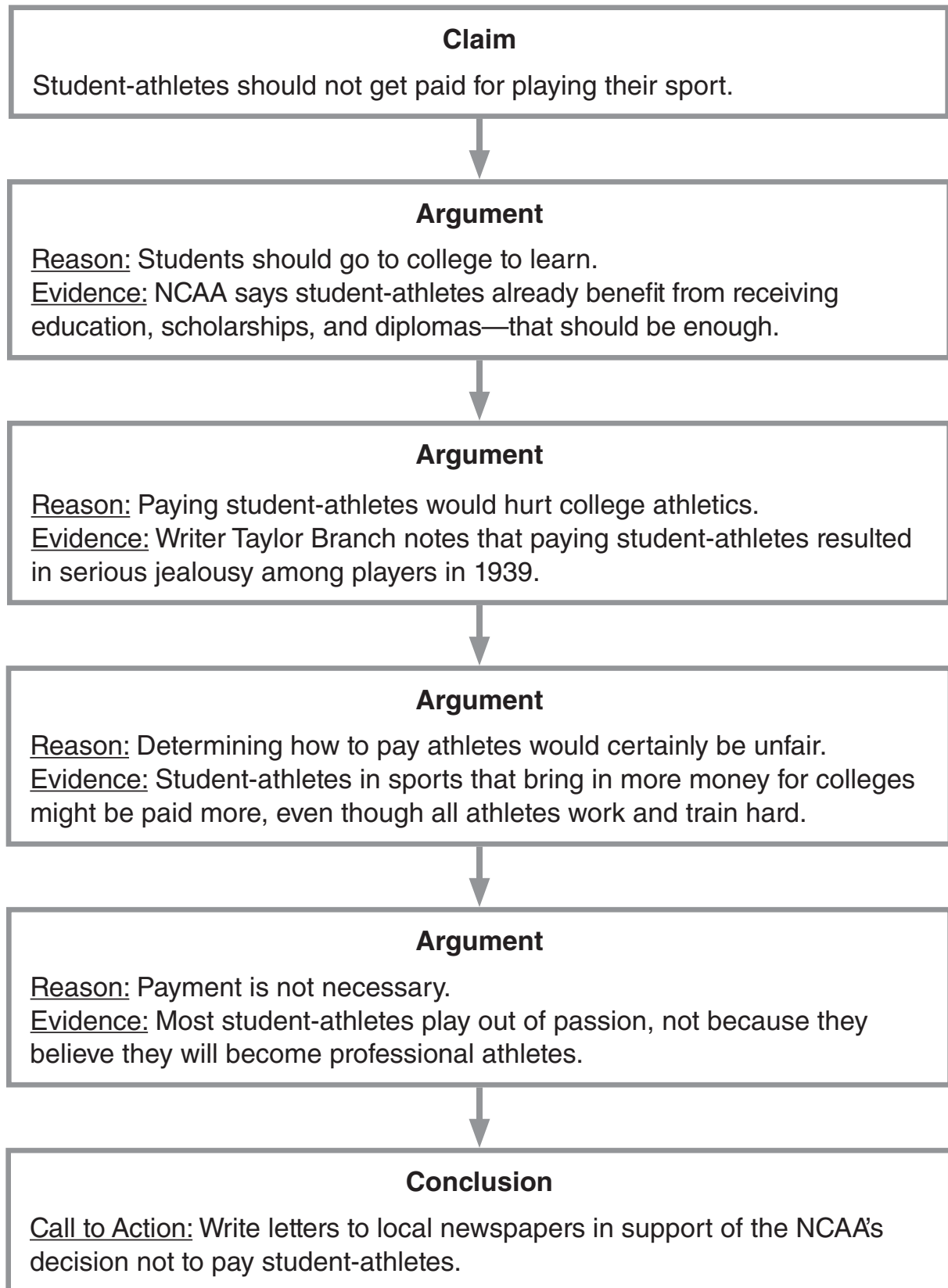
Write a letter to your local newspaper supporting the NCAA's decision not to pay athletes. Tell its readers that the system that is in place now is the best system because it provides college athletes with many benefits. Explain that paying players would damage the spirit of teamwork. Most important, remind them that students should focus on getting a great education, whether or not they are athletes.

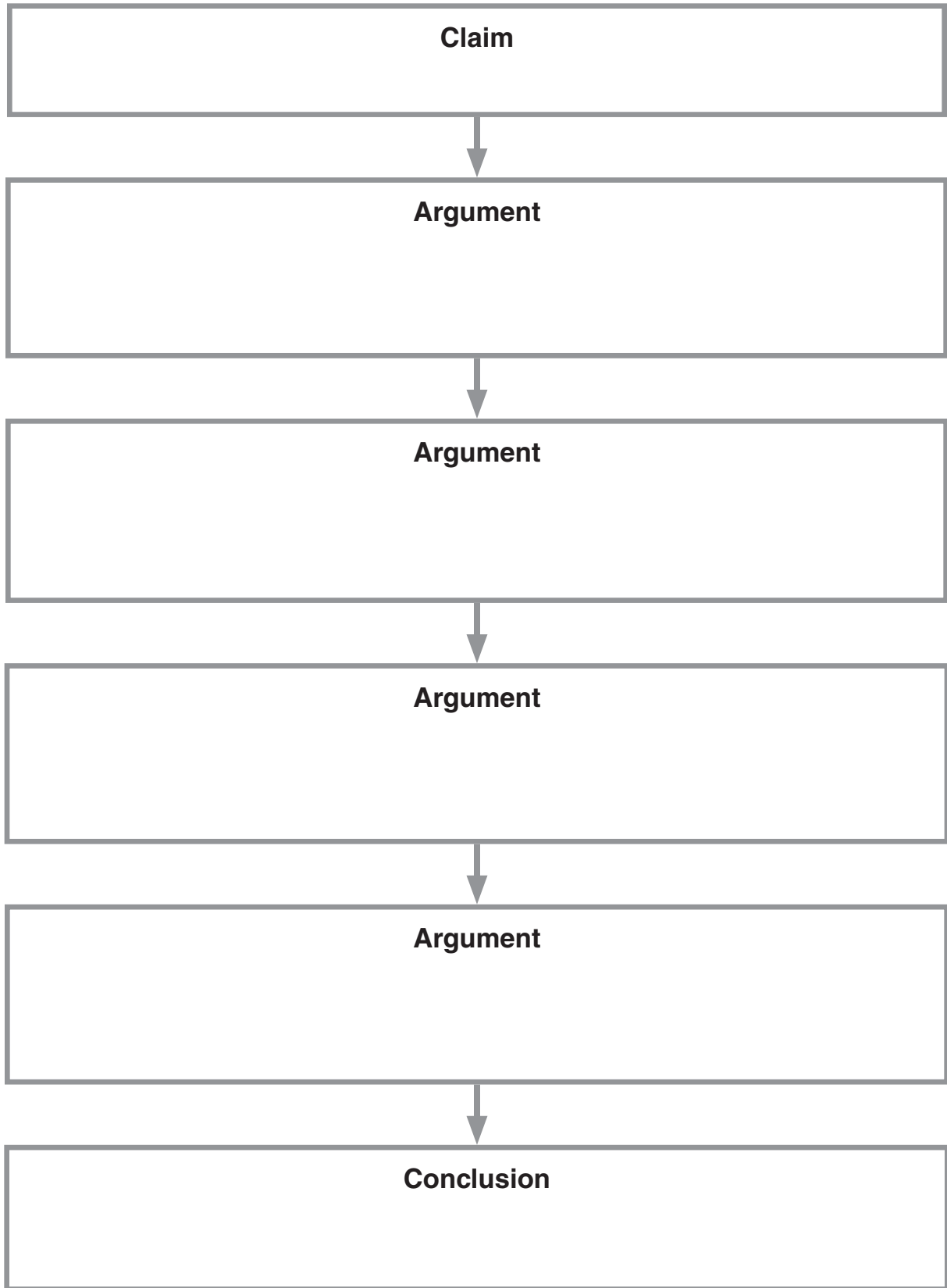
Features of an Argument Essay • 52

Argument Essay

- It states the writer's claims about a topic.
- It supports claims with clear reasons and convincing, relevant evidence from credible sources.
- It organizes reasons and evidence in a logical order.
- It maintains a formal style and objective tone.
- It uses linking words to connect ideas.
- It includes a conclusion that asks readers to take action.

Model Graphic Organizer • 53





Arts in the Schools

by Frances F.

Are visual arts classes an important part of education? This is a question many school districts have asked. Faced with the hassles of saving money and raising test scores in math and reading, some schools have gotten rid of visual arts classes. Not cool! Painting, sculpture, photography, and other visual arts help students develop important skills, including those needed for math and reading.

Research has shown that participating in strong arts programs improves students' abilities in math, reading, and science. Researchers led by James S. Catterall of the University of California at Los Angeles in California studied the academic achievement of 25,000 students. They found that students who participated in strong arts programs performed better on standardized tests. Students from schools with weak or no programs did not. Other researchers have found similar results.

In addition, participation in strong arts programs helps students develop self-esteem by providing a feeling of accomplishment. Students express themselves through projects that are theirs from beginning to end. This lets them gain an appreciation of their own creativity and originality. They also learn that patience and hard work can lead to a satisfying product. This will help them in school and their future work life.

There are many reasons why strong arts programs improve academic performance in other subjects. Photography, for

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example, helps students understand measurement and light. Painting and drawing expand students' knowledge of anatomy and spatial relationships.

Similarly, art history increases students' awareness of symbolism and language and expands their vocabulary for talking about ideas. Classes in the visual arts also teach a wide variety of critical-thinking skills. Students learn to express themselves through art and to appreciate the values and perceptions of other artists. This gives them a better perspective on how other people view the world around them. According to Stanford university professor Elliot Eisner, arts education teaches students to make judgments about the quality of things. Students automatically make judgments about what elements fit together well as they create art. This ability to make judgments carry over into other areas of education and life. Students learn that knowledge involves more than words and numbers, problems often have more than one solution, and paying attention to small differences can have large effects.

A good education is important to future success. Visual arts classes are an important part of a good education. I get why schools worry about budgets and how well students are performing in math, reading, and other subjects. However, cutting arts education is not the answer. Money spent on visual arts classes produces results that go far beyond the arts classroom.

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A good education is important to future success. Visual arts classes are an important part of a good education. ^{It is understandable that} I get why schools worry about budgets and how well students are performing in math, reading, and other subjects. However, cutting arts education is not the answer. Money spent on visual arts classes produces results that go far beyond the arts classroom.

Students and parents who care about education should demand more arts instruction in their schools, not less.

Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Use these checklists as you work with peers and work alone to revise and edit your Argument Essay.

Revise Checklist

- Does the essay make a claim about a topic?
- Does the essay include evidence from reliable sources to support the claim?
- Are transition words used to help show how ideas are related?
- Are reasons and evidence organized in a logical order?
- Does the essay have a formal style and an objective tone?
- Does the conclusion ask readers to take action?

Edit Checklist

- Do all sentences begin with a capital letter and end with a punctuation mark?
- Are sentences complete sentences with a subject and predicate?
- Are linking verbs used correctly?
- Are the correct forms of irregular verbs used?
- Are proper nouns and important words in titles capitalized?
- Are all words spelled correctly?

Argument Essay Rubric

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| <p>4 Excellent</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • includes a clearly stated claim about a topic and gives arguments to support the claim • organizes claims, arguments, and evidence in a logical way • uses facts and evidence to support arguments • uses transition words to show how ideas and reasons relate to each other • uses a formal style • has a variety of sentence types that flow • is free or almost free of all errors |
| <p>3 Good</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • includes a claim about a topic and some arguments to support the claim • has some organization for claims, arguments, and evidence • gives some facts and evidence to support arguments • uses some transition words that show how ideas relate to each other • uses a style that is mostly formal • has a variety of sentence types • has a few errors but is easy to read |
| <p>2 Fair</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • includes a claim about topic but gives very few arguments • uses a limited organization for ideas • includes few facts or evidence to support arguments • does not use transition words to show how ideas and reasons are related • uses a style that is more informal than formal • has all the same sentence type • has frequent errors that make it hard to understand |

Writing Rubric

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 Unsatisfactory | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• does not include a claim about topic or does not include any arguments• has a confusing organization for claims and support• does not include facts or evidence• does not show clear relationship between ideas• has an informal style• uses run-on sentences or fragments• has many errors that make it hard to understand |
|-------------------------|---|

Serving Our Earth First

by Pang C.

Many countries spend millions of dollars to help scientists study the solar system. In my opinion, this is a foolish waste of money. This money should instead be spent solving problems here on Earth.

One important area in which to use this money is health care. Terrible diseases such as tuberculosis, cholera, and malaria can be treated or even prevented. Even so, people around the world still die from these diseases. If governments and social scientists worked together to improve health care, this unnecessary suffering could end.

Another area that would gain from using money that is now spent on exploring space is answering questions about the Earth itself. Better predictions of earthquakes, tsunamis and hurricanes would save lives and loss of property.

Two other important issues deserve the science dollars now sent into space. Improving energy resources and deteriorating environments would impact people around the world.

What can you do to help change priorities for spending in science? Writing a letter to the editor of your local paper influences many people. Once the public decides this change is important, the money will follow.

Focus and Coherence The writing includes a clearly stated claim about the topic and gives arguments to support the claim.

Organization The writer organizes claims, arguments, and evidence in a logical way.

Ideas and Support Facts and evidence support the writer's arguments.

Word Choice The essay uses transition words to show how ideas and reasons relate to each other.

Voice/Sentence Fluency The writing uses the correct level of formality and the writer's voice comes through clearly. There are a variety of sentences, both simple and complex, that flow smoothly.

Conventions The writing is free or almost free of all errors in grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling.

Here's a Tip

by Luanda W.

Do you spend all your money on yourself? I think we ought to share with others. Tipping is an easy way to do this. If you try it, I'm sure you will agree.

You certainly don't have to be wealthy to tip. It just takes a little spare change. You can use the change you get back when you pay for something and drop it in the tip jar. In return, you'll probably get a smile and a thank you. It's that easy to make a difference in someone else's day.

Tipping is a meaningful way to show thanks. It says, "Thanks for taking care of me." It says, "Thanks for being here when I need you." It means "I appreciate you and the work you do."

Giving a tip suggests to a person that her or his work or service is appreciated. It sends a positive message. Isn't that a message we all would like to hear?

Focus and Coherence The writing includes a claim and some arguments to support the claim.

Organization Claims, arguments, and evidence show some organization.

Ideas and Support The writing offers some facts and evidence to support arguments.

Word Choice The writing uses some transition words that show how ideas relate to each other.

Voice/Sentence Fluency The style is mostly formal and the writer's opinions and voice are clear. The essay includes a variety of sentences and structures.

Conventions The essay has a few errors in grammar, mechanics, usage, and spelling, but they do not affect meaning.

Argument Essay Score: 2 Points

People and Money

by Donald R.

People say Money is the root of evil. I don't agree. Sometimes people do bad things when they has too much money like be greedy or selfish with it. But money itself aren't a bad thing. Think about all the good stuff money can buy for different people.

Money can buy a house. You can buy food. A little money can buy food if you are hungry and it can buy a home for a homeless person, like an apartment. it can also buy important stuff like cloths and shoes. Most people take these things for granted but think about someone else.

Some people do not try to help anyone but themself with the money they have but its not the moneys fault. So we should blame people, not the money.

Focus and Coherence The essay includes a claim about a topic but gives very few arguments.

Organization The essay demonstrates limited organization of ideas. The argument is not well developed, nor is it adequately supported with facts and details.

Ideas and Support The writing includes and limited evidence to support any arguments.

Word Choice The writing lacks transition words to show how ideas and reasons are related.

Voice/Sentence Fluency The style is more informal. The writer's opinions and factual statements are very weak. Sentences are not varied either structurally or in complexity.

Conventions Frequent errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, and spelling make the writing hard to understand.

Argument Essay Score: 1 Point

What About Earths Envierment?

by Jamie D.

How does the earth's atmosfere differ form our atmosfere. Which planets have water? Which planets could support life as we know it on earth? Ive always wondered about this kind of stuff. but we've spend millions of bucks to learn about other places what about our own? Do people even care about future of earth!

Our envierment is suffering many problems, Our air and water are polluted. Our climate is getting ecstremly hotter. Our rain forests in many countries is being destroyed, and many animals are becoming ecstinct. The O zone in the atmosphere is braking down. Our people faces natral disasters like huricanes and fluds. These bad things effects all life on earth.

Focus and Coherence The writing does not include a claim about a topic nor does it include any arguments.

Organization The writing has a confusing organization for claims and support. The argument is not coherent, nor is it developed.

Ideas and Support The writing does not include ideas supported by facts or evidence. There are few if any opinions expressed. There does not seem to be a main idea nor are there transitions between ideas.

Word Choice The language is not precise.

Voice/Sentence Fluency There are too many questions and not enough statements. The writer's voice is not clear. The writing style is too informal. The passage contains several run-on sentences and fragments.

Conventions Many errors in spelling, mechanics, usage, and punctuation make the writing hard to understand.