

Justification Paragraph: A Strong Draft

Should Boys and Girls Have the Same Sports Opportunities in School?

After reading the article “Leveling the Playing Field,” I am convinced that boys and girls should have the same sports opportunities in school. One reason is that schools have historically offered girls fewer sports options. Schools have also denied girls the opportunity to participate on boys’ teams such as wrestling. For example, my aunt attended high school in the late 1960s. She outperformed her two older brothers in baseball, but she was unable to join the high school team. Her only choices were badminton and archery, neither of which was her strongest or favorite sport. The article also points out that after Title IX was passed, which allowed girls to compete in boys’ events, girls still had to try out for an athletic team. In my experience, if a girl is confident enough to try out for a competitive sport like basketball or golf, then she is typically a skilled athlete who ought to be given a chance. As an example, the article describes Annika Sorenstam who in 2003 competed in a world-class PGA golf tournament against hundreds of male golfers. She was clearly strong enough to compete. Most importantly, images of what is feminine have evolved in the past decades. Girls are now encouraged to work out regularly and build muscle mass to have more stamina and strength while playing sports. Within my peer group, several girls are far more physically fit than many male classmates. For these reasons, I conclude that girls should be allowed to try out for traditional boys’ sports and judged based on their physical abilities not their gender.

Rate Your Writing

Use the following scoring guide to rate your justification paragraph.

		Insufficient	Attempted	Sufficient	Exemplary
1. Does the topic sentence clearly state your claim?	Writer	1	2	3	4
	Reader	1	2	3	4
2. Did you include strong reasons to support your claim?	Writer	1	2	3	4
	Reader	1	2	3	4
3. Did you provide strong text evidence to support your claim?	Writer	1	2	3	4
	Reader	1	2	3	4
4. Did you use transitions to introduce reasons and evidence?	Writer	1	2	3	4
	Reader	1	2	3	4
5. Did you conclude the paragraph with a strong final statement?	Writer	1	2	3	4
	Reader	1	2	3	4
6. Did you include precise topic words and high-utility words?	Writer	1	2	3	4
	Reader	1	2	3	4
7. Does the concluding sentence restate your claim using new wording?	Writer	1	2	3	4
	Reader	1	2	3	4