

Tracing an Author's Argument

Read Amanda Ripley's "Yes! It's Time to Scale Back" and Tim O'Shei's "No! Sports Are More Important Than Ever" in the *Scope* debate "Should Your School Get Rid of Sports?" Then complete the activity that begins below to trace and evaluate each author's argument. We've provided directions and filled in some information for you.

Claim: It's time to scale back school sports.
Author: Amanda Ripley

Reasons

▶▶ Add at least one more piece of evidence the author uses to support Reason 1.

Reason 1: Sports interfere with learning.

Evidence:

- In a school in Premont, Texas, suspending sports resulted in better pass rates.

▶▶ Add at least two pieces of evidence the author uses to support Reason 2.

Reason 2: Prioritizing sports has contributed to American students falling behind their peers in other countries academically.

Evidence:



▶▶ Write another reason the author gives and at least two pieces of evidence that support it.

Reason 3:

Evidence:

Counterargument

▶▶ Explain how Ripley acknowledges and then refutes, or opposes, arguments on the other side of the debate.



Persuasive Strategies

▶▶ In the list below, place a check by the persuasive strategies that Ripley uses to try to convince you of her claim.

- She mentions research.
- She appeals to the reader's emotions.
- She uses the bandwagon technique, urging you to believe something because everyone else does.
- She uses a tone that makes her seem believable and trustworthy.
- She quotes experts.
- She includes data.
- She gives real-world examples.

▶▶ In your own words, briefly summarize the persuasive strategies Ripley uses. Support your answer with details from the article.

Evaluation

▶▶ What type of information could Ripley add to make her argument more convincing?

▶▶ Regardless of your personal opinion on the role of sports in American schools, do you find Ripley's argument convincing? Why or why not?

Claim: School sports are more important than ever.
Author: Tim O'Shei

Reasons

▶▶ Write a reason O'Shei gives for his argument and at least two pieces of evidence that support it.

Reason 1:

Evidence:

▶▶ Write another reason O'Shei gives for his argument and at least two pieces of evidence that support it.

Reason 2:

Evidence:

▶▶ Write a third reason O'Shei gives for his argument and at least two pieces of evidence that support it.

Reason 3:

Evidence:



Counterargument

▶▶ Explain how O'Shei acknowledges and then refutes, or opposes, arguments on the other side of the debate.

Persuasive Strategies

▶▶ In the list below, place a check by the persuasive strategies that O'Shei uses to try to convince you of his claim.

- He mentions research.
- He appeals to the reader's emotions.
- He uses the bandwagon technique, urging you to believe something because everyone else does.
- He uses a tone that makes him seem believable and trustworthy.
- He quotes experts.
- He includes data.
- He gives real-world examples.

▶▶ In your own words, briefly summarize the persuasive strategies O'Shei uses. Support your answer with details from the article.



Evaluation

▶▶ What type of information could O'Shei add to make his argument more convincing?

▶▶ Regardless of your personal opinion on the role of sports in American schools, do you find O'Shei's argument convincing? Why or why not?