

Name: _____ Date: _____

Finding and Using Text Evidence

Directions: Read “Should Kids Play Football?” by Jennifer Shotz. Then complete the activity below.

1. Imagine that you are writing a paragraph about why Isaiah quit football.

A. Which of the following is the best topic sentence for your paragraph?

- Ⓐ Isaiah always dreamed of playing high school football.
- Ⓑ Isaiah knew he would probably get tackled again and get another concussion.
- Ⓒ Isaiah chose to quit football because he felt it was too risky to keep playing after his injury.

B. Which of the following lines from “Should Kids Play Football?” provides the best text evidence to support the sentence you chose in part A above?

- Ⓐ “Most concussions sustained in football happen during tackles.”
- Ⓑ “‘I understand what could have happened if I’d stayed on the team,’ Isaiah says. ‘Brain damage could have affected my entire life.’”
- Ⓒ “He still gets headaches once in a while, but for the most part, his symptoms have faded.”

C. Which of the following best explains why the text evidence you chose in question B is relevant?

- Ⓐ It proves that youth football is extremely dangerous.
- Ⓑ It suggests that Isaiah was still experiencing symptoms from his concussion.
- Ⓒ It shows that Isaiah was aware that continuing to play football meant putting his brain in great danger.

2. Choose one piece of text evidence that BEST supports the statement below. Then complete the sentence to explain your choice.

There are ways to make youth football safer.

- Ⓐ "A single concussion, if treated properly, will likely heal without any long-term effects."
- Ⓑ "Yet with all the public attention on the concussion crisis, football seems to be getting safer every day."
- Ⓒ "Nationwide programs are training coaches, parents, and athletes to recognize and treat concussions."

I chose ____ because _____

3. A. Choose three pieces of text evidence from "Should Kids Play Football?" that BEST support the statement below.

Kids should not play football because it is too dangerous.

- Ⓐ "An increasing number of kids are choosing not to play."
- Ⓑ "Football players of all ages have suffered permanent brain damage from repeated concussions."
- Ⓒ "For example, Pop Warner has limited the amount of practice time that includes tackling."
- Ⓓ "Several NFL players have stated that the game is so risky they wouldn't let their own kids play."
- Ⓔ "Every year, tens of thousands of youth-football players get concussions."
- Ⓕ "If we got rid of football, where would we draw the line?"

B. Select one piece of INCORRECT evidence from above and explain why it does NOT support the statement.

Evidence ____ does not support the statement because _____

4. Choose the sentence that correctly presents text evidence from "Should Kids Play Football?" in the form of a direct quotation.

- Ⓐ There are benefits to playing football. For example, Jennifer Shotz in her article "Should Kids Play Football?" writes that football builds discipline, focus, and teamwork (11). In other words, the skills kids develop on the field will help them in other areas of their lives.
- Ⓑ There are benefits to playing football. For example, in her article "Should Kids Play Football?" Jennifer Shotz claims that "young athletes learn discipline, focus, teamwork—skills that will help them be successful later in life" (11). In other words, the skills kids develop on the field will help them in other areas of their lives.
- Ⓒ There are benefits to playing football. "Young athletes learn discipline, focus, teamwork—skills that will help them be successful later in life" (11).

Explain why the two answers you did not choose are incorrect: _____

5. Choose the sentence that correctly uses text evidence from "Should Kids Play Football?" in the form of a paraphrase.

- Ⓐ If American kids stopped playing football, it would be a national tragedy. According to an essay I read, millions of kids play, the sport brings money to colleges and the NFL, and many communities view their youth-football players as heroes. This shows how football is part of our way of life. Losing football would mean losing a major part of our culture.
- Ⓑ If American kids stopped playing football, it would be a national tragedy. As Jennifer Shotz writes in her article "Should Kids Play Football?" millions of kids play, the sport brings money to colleges and the NFL, and many communities view their youth-football players as heroes.
- Ⓒ If Americans stopped playing football, it would be a national tragedy. As Jennifer Shotz writes in her article "Should Kids Play Football?" millions of kids play, the sport brings money to colleges and the NFL, and many communities view their youth-football players as heroes (11). This shows that football is part of our way of life. Losing football would mean losing a major part of our culture.

Explain why the two answers you did not choose are incorrect: _____

6. Now it's your turn to put it all together. Write a paragraph about what makes football dangerous. Your paragraph should include at least one piece of text evidence in the form of a ~~paraphrase~~ or a direct quotation, and a sentence explaining how the evidence supports your central idea. We've provided the topic sentence for you.

Football is a dangerous sport because of the high risk of getting a concussion.
