

. **Task 6**

. **Suggested Teacher Prompt:**

- . “Listen, your task is clear. You know a lot more about sports in schools – the pros and cons, than you did yesterday. And, I know you’d write a different letter now – more informed, more expert, more compelling, more critical, than you did even twenty-four hours ago. Go to it.” **Written Prompt:** You have done more research on this issue now, and you know even more about the pros and cons of youth sports. Now, imagine that your school district is going to make a final decision about continuing to fund sports programs in the schools. You have a chance to write a letter that will be read to the mayor, printed in the paper, or presented to the head of the school board or PTA. Your letter should state a claim or thesis by taking a clear side, back it up with research, and refute the other side. Your job is to argue whether, overall, sports are good or bad for kids. Letters are really just a form of essay, so use what you know about essay writing to structure your letter. Be sure to back up your claim with reasons and evidence, supported by facts and details from multiple sources you studied and analysis of those sources. Be sure to cite important references. Be sure to:
- Introduce your topic
 - State a claim: make clear what you are arguing for or against in this letter
 - Organize your reasons and supporting details in paragraphs
 - Use relevant information from the sources you studied to support your claim
 - Acknowledge and refute the counterclaim
 - Include direct quotes from sources when appropriate
 - Maintain an essayist’s tone

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Grade 8: Nonfiction Reading and Research-Based Argument Essay Writing

- Use transitional words and phrases
- Write a conclusion