Writing Body Paragraphs

Essay topic: Should parents encourage young children to play professional sports?

Thesis: Parents should not encourage their young children to play professional sports.

Reason: Playing professional sports takes too much time away from schoolwork.

Language to Introduce Reasons (Usually the topic sentences of your body paragraphs)

**First,**

**First of all,**

**Second,**

**Third**, playing professional sports takes too much time away from schoolwork.

**Lastly,**

**Finally,**

**Additionally**, (to introduce a second or third reason)

**The first reason is that** playing professional sports takes too much time away from schoolwork.

**Another reason is that** playing professional sports takes too much time away from schoolwork.

or

**The first reason parents shouldn’t encourage their children to play professional sports is that**……

(the first reason) (the next reason)

**Besides** taking time away from schoolwork, professional sports can be physically demanding.

Supporting Information

Reason: Playing professional sports takes too much time away from schoolwork.

Support #1: Children who participate in competitive and professional sports have to spend a lot of time practicing. This usually happens after school and on weekends.

Example: A perfect example of this is Jayshawn, a 5th-grade boy who was on the news for his unusual and exceptional basketball skills. He is not professional yet, but he trains like he is and someday he wants to be in the NBA. He practices………

Explanation: Because he spends so much time practicing after school, he is neglecting his homework. Maybe his basketball skills will help him go to college one day on a scholarship, but what if he gets injured and can’t play? He will not be able to rely on the sport he loves or his grades because he never focused on his schoolwork.

Support #2: Also, children who devote their lives to sports like Jordan Romero, the 13 year-old boy who climbed Mt. Everest, often have to travel for weeks at a time.

Explanation: He climbed several mountains on different continents. It takes time to travel to these places. It also takes time to climb up mountains like Everest. He spent weeks on that trip.

Concluding sentence: All of the time these kids spend practicing or traveling for their sport, should be spent on schoolwork because that will stay with them their whole lives. There is time to focus on professional sports once they finish high school successfully.

For the Conclusion of the essay:

Present counterarguments:

Many people, especially the kids who want to play professional sports, say they must start when they are young. If they don’t, they’ll never make it.

Then refute them:

However, there are other options while a child is still young. They can play for their middle and high school teams and excel there. When they get into college, they can continue to play for the school team. Most of these high school and college teams require athletes to do well in school in order to remain on the team. Once they get a solid education, the can think about becoming professional.