



Author's Purpose

Read the passages. Write the author's purpose for writing each passage on the line.

To persuade the reader to...

To entertain the reader with a story about...

To inform the reader about...

To explain to the reader how to...

To describe a...

The game of horseshoes can be played by people of all ages. It is commonly played with four players and requires 2 stakes and four horseshoes. The object of the game for players is to toss their horseshoe as close as possible to the stake on the opposite end of the "court". The ultimate goal is to get a "ringer", or a horseshoe that lands so that it completely encircles the stake.

To play the game, a member of each team stands at opposite ends of the court. The team members on one side each pitches two horseshoes toward the opposite stake. The team members on the opposite side determine the scoring for the round. Three points are awarded to every ringer and two points to every "leaner" (or a horseshoe that lands leaning against the stake). If there are no ringers or leaners, one point is awarded for the two closest shoes. Once the scoring has been decided, those players pick up the horseshoes and pitch them back, with the players on the other end scoring this time. The game is typically played to 21 points, so the first team to score 21 points is declared the winner.

1. What is the purpose of the above passage?

Jack had played four basketball games that morning in the local 3-on-3 tournament, and his parents could see and smell it when he walked up to them after the last game of the morning. He reeked! As he pulled off his basketball shoes, his Mom gasped at the foul stench. His hair was tussled and wet, and sweat rolled down the sides of his face. So much sweat had seeped through his uniform that it looked like it could have been wrung out like a dish rag. He took several gulps of his energy drink and sat there smiling and satisfied at his team's come-from-behind win. At least someone in the area was smiling; everyone else around him on the bleachers where he sat quietly moved away from smelly, sweaty Jack!

2. What is the purpose of the above passage?

George Herman "Babe" Ruth was born on February 6, 1895 in Baltimore, Maryland. Little did anyone know then that he would one day become a legend in the world of baseball. Babe Ruth was originally discovered for his pitching abilities, but by 1920 he was known as a hitting powerhouse. By the end of his career, he had set records for home runs, slugging percentage, runs batted in (RBIs), and more.

The first major league team Ruth played with was the Boston Red Sox. There, from 1914 to 1919, he spent most of his time as a starting pitcher. In 1919, he was sold to the New York Yankees. It was there that he converted to a right-fielder and home run hitter. During his 15 seasons with the Yankees, he led the charge to seven pennant wins and four World Series titles. He finished his career playing one season with the Boston Braves, and then retired from baseball in 1935.

3. What is the purpose of the above passage?

Kayla had an exciting morning in front of her. She would soon be competing in her very first youth triathlon. She and her older sister, Brooke, had been training for it for several weeks now. Because this would be Brooke's third triathlon, she coached Kayla on how to train. On the car ride to the event, they even agreed that they had enjoyed training together, taking turns deciding what their workout would be each day.

Because Kayla was younger, she competed first. She was so excited when the starting gun went off that she charged fast into the water. She was in and out of the water before she knew it! She quickly ran to her bike, and slipped on her shorts, socks, and shoes. Off on the bike she went, hearing Brooke's cheers as she rode off. She cruised through the bike ride. When she got back to the transition station, she parked her bike and set off on the run. Brooke had told Kayla that the run would be the hardest part of the race since she would be tired, and unfortunately, she was right. However, Kayla just kept thinking of the words of encouragement Brooke had continually told her during training, and focusing on that kept her going strong. She saw the finish line in the distance and ran as hard as she could toward it. She reached the finish line and nearly collapsed on the ground from exhaustion. Suddenly, there was Brooke, congratulating her on a great race. Now Kayla knew why Brooke enjoyed competing in these youth triathlons so much!

4. What is the purpose of the above passage?

I was shocked and very upset when I heard that the International Olympic Committee had voted to eliminate wrestling as an Olympic sport effective with the 2020 Olympic Games. I, along with 270,000 other high school athletes in the United States, compete in this sport, and my dreams of becoming an Olympian were dashed when this decision was announced. I think wrestling and sports lovers everywhere should work to get the International Olympic Committee to reverse their decision!

There are several good reasons why wrestling should remain in the Olympics. First, it was part of the very first ancient Olympic Games way back in 708 B.C. Why would we want to end such a long-standing tradition? Secondly, wrestling is a sport played worldwide, so it draws participants from many nations. Finally, just because an Olympic sport may not get millions of television viewers, doesn't mean it should be eliminated.

5. What is the purpose of the above passage?

