



Developing | Exemplar Essay

## Choose Your Own Adventure

### Stressful After School Activities



#### Clarity and Focus

The central idea is loosely developed in this essay ("I am not in any school activity right now because I have to stay focused more in school than in a sport or activity"), but focus on it is not maintained.



#### Development

The essay attempts to establish the central idea, but the facts and real-life examples used are not fully developed. Some of the examples given are relevant ("I actually like to go home and relax for about an hour and then I do my homework"), but others need further elaboration ("Lastly, extracurricular activities can cause stress").



#### Organization

The writer begins to build an organizational pattern by creating multiple paragraphs. Transitions are used ("to start with," "obviously," and "lastly"), but they do not show connections between ideas. It is difficult to connect the conclusion to the central idea.



#### Language and Style

The essay occasionally varies sentence structure and uses some precise language ("exhausted" and "extracurricular"). However, the informal style and subjective tone are not appropriate for the task ("Like who has time for that?").



#### Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait 'looks like' in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see "25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays" by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

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### Notes

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### Stressful After School Activities

I don't participate in after school sports. Firstly I just want to go home after school and play videogames or sleep because I have already worked all day at school. Being in school all day makes me very exhausted. Ultimately, I am not in any school activity right now because I have to stay focused more in school than in a sport or activity.

To start with, I have 7 classes. So I have to do a lot of work to do already I get up very early in the morning at 5am so I can catch the bus on time. I try to stay focused in school all day even though it is hard sometimes. By the time school ends at 3pm I have no energy to go play a sport or do some other activity. I actually like to go home and relax for about an hour and then I do my homework. Obviously, if I participated in other activities I would not be able to do my homework until late at night. Some kids are up very late doing their homework after they get home from games. I don't want to be one of them. Like who has time for that?

Lastly, extracurricular activities can cause stress. Teenagers already have enough stress as it is, so I don't really want any more. Although, they can be great for some people, they aren't for me. Those are the reasons why I don't participate.