



Advanced | Exemplar Essay

## Choose Your Own Adventure

### The Benefits of Extracurricular Activities



#### Clarity and Focus

The essay contains a clear and focused central idea (“They teach teenagers how to socialize, time management, and improve academics”). The demands of the prompt are fully addressed throughout the essay. The central idea is meaningful and engages the reader.



#### Development

The central idea is developed through well-chosen, relevant facts, and concrete examples (“Reading club helps me work on my management skills and prepares me for the future”). The audience’s understanding of the topic is fully developed.



#### Organization

The essay uses an organizational structure with appropriate and varied transitions (“in the beginning,” “on the contrary,” and “in the end”) that show relationships between ideas. The structure is cohesive and includes introductory and concluding paragraphs that support the central idea.



#### Language and Style

The essay has established a formal style of writing that is well-maintained throughout. Varied sentence structures and precise language are used (“academics,” “perspective,” and “multitude”) to illustrate the topic.



#### 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.

## Choose Your Own Adventure



### The Benefits of Extracurricular Activities

Sports and clubs are an important part of teenager lives. Extracurricular activities have many benefits that young adults are not even aware of. These activities can vary, but no matter what activity you choose, they are all beneficial in some way. They teach teenagers how to socialize, time management, and improve academics.

In the beginning, I was afraid to join any type of extracurricular activity because I am shy, but then I found one that is perfect for me. My school has a Reading/Book Club, and I have been a part of it for a year now. The pages of a book hold more than words; they create new worlds, make us feel a large range of emotions, and take us on amazing adventures. No matter where I am, reading makes me feel cozy and content. Reading club helps quieter kids like me socialize more. Many may think that this type of club is not about socialization, but on the contrary, it is. After reading a book, I am able to discuss the book with others. In this club, I can explain my opinions, and listen to other's opinions as well. Often, I get a new perspective on the book that I did not think of before.

Next, participating in an extracurricular activity can improve time management. With reading club, it is important to meet on time every week. Additionally, I have to make sure that I have the book finished when we are supposed to. In the real world, when I have a job, I will have to have excellent time management to be successful. Reading club helps me work on my management skills and prepares me for the future.

Lastly, being a part of an extracurricular activity improves academics. To begin with, reading is such an important part of academics. In every subject that you learn, you must read the content. Reading club has helped improve



my comprehension and helped me realize the different purposes of reading.

My scores have increased in my classes since being a part of this club.

In the end, I have realized that extracurricular activities have benefits that will help me succeed. Extracurricular activities could be a variety of clubs, sports, or hobbies. No matter which type of activity that you choose, the benefits will help you in a multitude of ways. For these reasons, I encourage every student to join an extracurricular activity.