

Directed Self Placement Essay Prompt, 2014

1. Read the article "The Case against High School Sports" by Amanda Ripley
2. Write a 4-5 page, double-spaced essay (1200-1500 words) in response to the following prompt:

In her 2013 article "The Case against High School Sports," Amanda Ripley puts forth a provocative argument about the place of high school sports in American education. Ripley offers evidence from a variety of sources to support her position, and she acknowledges and addresses counterarguments as well. **Write a 4-5 page, double-spaced essay (1200-1500 words) in which you take a position on Ripley's argument.** You may agree with Ripley, disagree with Ripley, or formulate a third perspective. While you may draw on your own experience and observations in establishing your position, your argument should respond directly to the claims and evidence that Ripley presents.

Your instructor for your first writing course will read this essay in order to learn about your writing, and to help you progress as a writer in college.

Most of the writing you will do at the University of Michigan will ask you to develop a clear position and to support that position using specific evidence. In writing this essay, it will be helpful to keep the following guidelines in mind.

- **Focus:** Your essay should be developed around a clear central thesis or argument, drawing on evidence from the article to illustrate or support your argument. Consider developing your focus from the parts of the article you responded to most strongly.
- **Structure:** Your essay should be clearly organized in a way that elaborates on and supports your own central thesis. Individual paragraphs should be cohesive, and your reader should be able to follow the logical progression of your ideas from one paragraph to the next.
- **Evidence/Analysis:** Make sure that you support your claims with well-chosen examples from the article and that you explain clearly how each example supports your points.

Ripley, Amanda. "The Case Against High School Sports." *The Atlantic*. October 2013.