

Favorite Activity

Paragraph Assignment

DIRECTIONS: Think of all the activities, hobbies, athletics, games etc. that you enjoy doing. Think of those types of things you would do if you had free time. Now make a list of 7-10 of your “Favorite Activities.” Then pick ONE favorite pastime and write a paragraph that gives three reasons why that is your most desired endeavor.

Remember to follow the paragraph format, using identifiers, transitions, the THREE PARTS of everything, showing examples, and varied word choice and sentence structure.



Preparation for Favorite Activity Paragraph

Example Process

Reasons why Favorite Activity

1. List as many reasons why _____ is your favorite activity.

Why Basketball is my Favorite Activity

I like exercising
Scoring points
The sounds of the game
Playing defense
The team
Competition
Practicing
Hanging out with my friends

2. Pick the three strongest, different points that you can easily talk about and expand. Make sure they prove/answer why _____ is your favorite activity.

- 😊 The exercise
- 😊 The team
- 😊 The competition

3. Break down each of the three points on your pre-writing sheets with clear support that shows why _____ is your favorite activity.

(1st PT) To begin with, playing basketball is a rewarding pursuit of mine because I love the exercise.

(EX) I get excited about playing basketball because I know it will get me into great shape. Every single practice begins with running laps. We also do “back-n-forths” five times. Then, during practice we are constantly running all over the court; and, by the end of practice when we are tired, we run suicides until we drop into a pool of sweat. By attending each practice, not only do I become extremely fit and have the stamina to play the whole game, but I am very satisfied because I feel incredibly good about my lean and healthy body.

Favorite Activity Paragraph Help Sheet

In writing your drafts, make sure you pay attention to the following pages: 5-6 "Paragraph Format," 12-13 Favorite Thing paragraph example, 54-56 "Common Mistakes in Paragraphs," 58 "Compound/Complex Sentences," 61-62 final writing directions, and 66 "Paragraph Checklist."

You are also responsible for getting your first and second drafts Peer-Edited and PQPed whether you are in class or not, whether we finish this in class or not. See pages 48-51 for both the directions and two examples of this process.

Below are hints to help make sure you are successful with your 8 parts.

Example (TS) sentences:

Steal one of the TS Sentences

(TS) After inventorying what I enjoy doing in my free time, I realize that playing football is my favorite activity for a number of reasons.

(TS) Considering all of my hobbies, athletics, and such, I discovered that there are quiet a few reasons why playing soccer is my number one leisure interest.

(TS) For some very particular reasons I realized that hanging out with my friends is the most desired pursuit of all my favorite activities.

(TS) Although I enjoy being very active, there are a few key factors why snowboarding is my most enjoyable pastime event.

Example (PT) sentences: (you need a transition, a point/reason why _____ is your favorite thing, and the topic in new words)

Steal these PT Sentences

(1st pt.) One, _____ is a rewarding pursuit because _____.

(2nd pt.) Two, since I enjoy _____, _____ is a beloved activity of mine.

(3rd pt.) Three, I get excited about _____ because _____.

Put your favorite activity into these blanks

Example sentences: remember that the first sentence explains what you just said in your point sentence and the second sentence then shows a specific incident that shows/proves what you mean. See the two examples on page 55 number 8 and the Favorite Thing paragraph example on pages 12-13.

Use the other blanks for your reasons

Example (CS) sentence: (you need a transition, your 3 pts. in new words, and the topic)

Use this CS Sentence

(CS) In short, _____ is a gratifying recreational hobby of mine because _____, _____, and _____.

Your 3 points in same order but new words

Pre-Writing Sheet

Name _____

Date _____

Period _____

Topic/Question: Why? How? What? What is my favorite thing to do?

Topic Sentence (Part of topic, say something, and # of reasons): After considering the numerous activities I enjoy doing in my free-time, I realized that playing football was undoubtedly my most favorite for an abundance of reasons.

(1st Pt.) To begin with,
(Transition word)

I take enormous pleasure in playing football because of the physical contact.

Example Sentence #1a

There is no greater feeling I get than when I tackle my opponent.

Example Sentence #1b I play linebacker, and when an opposing running back comes cutting through the line trying to make a big run, I just love smashing him to the ground and not giving him any yardage. The sound of my pads crashing the runner to the turf and stopping a big gain, not only psyches me up, but it gets my teammates pumped up too.

(2nd Pt.) Next,
(Transition word)

Because of the teamwork, I am very partial to the sport of football.

Example Sentence #2a

Whether I am in practice or at a game, my teammates and I always work and cheer together.

Example Sentence #2b During practice all the players push each other to do well, run the plays correctly, and cheer our teammates on when a play goes well. Last practice when the defense was stopping every gain, we were all smacking our chests, high fiving, hooping it up, and encouraged each other because of the awesome play. Each time we did this, we were motivated to do our best.

(3rd Pt.) Finally,
I get thoroughly excited about football because I absolutely adore competing and beating my opponent.

Example Sentence #3a

Every single game I am so pumped up to try and annihilate the opposing team.

Example Sentence #3b In one game, I was so psyched up and ready to win in the first quarter that two plays in a row when the ball was snapped, I darted through the middle of the line and sacked the quarterback for big losses. Those two sacks caused the other team to punt and changed the momentum of the game as we won 21-0.

Concluding Sentence (In short, Therefore, All in All, Consequently, In summary): Therefore, because of the opportunity knock people around, work with a good group of guys, and my desire to win, playing football is the most incredible activity in my life.

Strumming the Strings of Vibration

(TS) Playing the guitar is my favorite thing to do for three main reasons. (1st pt.) First, I love getting the opportunity to play for an audience. (Ex.) There is no greater feeling than playing music for people who want to listen. Watching them follow my notes and seeing their expressions of appreciation not only make it fun to play, but it's really nice to see other people enjoying it too. (2nd pt.) Second, I love learning about new tricks that can be done to make the songs unique. (Ex.) For example, I recently learned a pull-off, which is where I would pull my finger off a string so that the note sounds without the string being picked. There are all sorts of techniques like this that make playing the guitar interesting and fun. (3rd pt.) Third, I love to learn songs by my favorite bands. (Ex.) That way, I can play along with a song instead of just singing along. Plus, I get to improve my listening and playing skills by copying what I hear. (CS) In short, playing for an audience, learning new techniques, and learning songs that I like make guitar my favorite thing to do.

******NOTE: this paragraph is not perfect because its topic sentence is very basic and not creatively worded, the point sentences do not clearly show the 3 parts, the examples need to go farther and include the main focus of the paragraph, and the word choice and sentences need more variety.**

Who Says Dribbling is Just For Basketball Fanatics?

(TS) After inventorying what I enjoy doing in my free time, I realize that playing soccer is my favorite activity for a number of reasons. (1st Pt) To begin with, soccer is great cardiovascular exercise and it makes me feel physically fit. (Ex.) Running up and down the field gets my arms and legs working which causes me to develop corporal strength. Whenever I sprint back to defense to retrieve a loose ball kicked by the other team or dribble down to the opposing goal to score, all the tendons in my muscles are tightening and stretching and my heart is pumping rapidly as I stride across the field. Even though it is harder to run on a muddy field, since the muscles in my legs are hard and athletic and my heart is healthy, I do not get as out of breath as I would had I not worked in soccer to tone my muscles into shape. Since this gives me the confidence that I have the ability to run a marathon consisting of ten miles uphill without so much as a side ache, I love how soccer gets me to exercise and results in this physical self-assurance. (2nd Pt) Next, because I get the chance to have fun with my friends, participating in soccer is a beloved activity of mine. (Ex.) For example, I take pleasure in acting crazy with two of my closest friends on the team. During games, after we score a goal and we are ahead, we perform a silly ritual of celebration we created. All three of us drop to our knees, roll on the ground, and say, “We better stop, drop, and roll because we are on fire!” If I did not have people to socialize with during the season, soccer would not be as fun as when I have such favorable company. (3rd Pt) Finally, I get excited while competing and try my hardest to win while engaging in soccer. (Ex.) Every time the ball comes my way, I have an overwhelming adrenalin rush and all I want to do is present my best to beat the other team. I either dribble down the field as fast as my legs can take me weaving in and out of players to find access to the goal, or I pass the ball to one of my open teammates carrying high hopes that they will score to win the game. When I kick the ball passed the outstretched hands of the goalie into the corner of the net, I throw my arms up in celebration fueling the fires of competition, feeling absolutely unstoppable, and all I want to do is score more to keep the other team from catching up for a chance to beat us. (CS) Therefore, playing soccer is a favorite activity of mine because I get an enormous workout, I am happily engaged with my friends, and I am eager to contend and succeed.

Note: This “Favorite Activity” Paragraph goes much farther into detail, uses an assortment of words for the same ideas, and varies its sentence structure. Focus on the differences of these two.