

High School Athletes

Sports play an important role in education in the United States. Most high schools organize sports competitions and have their own teams. One in three high school students participates in a team sport. If you are really good at a sport, you can even get a grant to go to college. In many cases, college athletics are more popular than professional sports, with the major sanctioning organization being the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association). What about you? What sports do you do? How important is P.E in your school?

...In the beginning

The first team sport on the American continent was Lacrosse. It is a sport played using a small rubber ball and a long-handled stick called a 'crosse' or 'lacrosse' stick. It was played by the Native Americans.

Later, British colonists brought other team sports to America.

Students played team sports after school, and organized competitions between classes. Only boys were allowed to go to high school until 1850 that is why sports for girls developed later.

Me, my team, my school

Showing one's membership to a school team is essential, so the sports gear is a real uniform. The participants wear their school team colors. Each team has a mascot, and recognizable T-shirts, caps, scarves and fight songs performed by marching bands. Students wear these to show which school they belong to and to show how proud they are of their team. They sing the songs during games to encourage the players.

Supporting the team

Each school team has got its own cheerleaders to support them. Cheerleading is a key part of the show, adding drama and encouraging the players. Cheerleaders have their own uniforms, pom-poms, and perform dances and acrobatic stunts.

Parents are also very active in supporting their children, especially *soccer moms*: mothers who drive their children to all sports events.

Individual sports

But you don't need to be in a team to be a successful athlete. Wrestling is the sixth most popular sport for boys. To win, you have to pin your opponent to the ground. Track and field sports involve running, jumping and throwing, and you must try to set new records of speed and distance!

1- Answer the 3 questions of the introduction.

2- Find 8 difficult words and explain them.

3- Choose three sentences from the text and write similar ones with the same sentence structure.

4- Use 5 of the new words to write 5 meaningful sentences.