



Examine an Argument

1. Read the essay
2. Identify problems with overall content/structure
3. Highlight problems with tone or use of informal language
4. Underline and identify specific examples of faulty logic

Don't Change Football

Since scientists have found a lot of new information about the brain, there has been a lot of damage from concussions to football players. The dangers of concussions have made people talk a lot about how contact sports like football should be treated, and how schools can make it injury-proof for students who play football. I think that football is important to people, and that people shouldn't try to change the game too much. If anything, players should be taught how to tackle so that they don't hit head to head with another player, as this is where most concussions come from. You can ask anyone. They don't want lawmakers to change the game.

Paragraph 2

Football is too much a part of our culture to take it out of schools. Professional football is a multi-billion-dollar industry on TV. In all the places that don't have pro teams, like Nebraska, college football is even bigger than that. If colleges don't get good players who have practiced and played in high school and middle school, the quality of the game for both the NCAA and NFL would be crummy. I think it would also be even more dangerous because people starting to play in college would have had less practice.

Paragraph 3

Football is a big part of our school's history and culture, too. If we didn't have football, we wouldn't have the big homecoming parade and dance. We wouldn't have thousands of people paying good money on Friday nights to cheer for their team. The money raised by attendance at games gets shared by the whole athletics department and does a lot of good for our school. That's how we got the lights for the new field so we can play night games. If students are attending football games on Friday night, they can't be out getting in trouble. Can you imagine if we hadn't had football five years ago when we won the state championship? Our school wouldn't be so respected; all of those good memories and pride would be gone, and students wouldn't want to go to school here.

Paragraph 4

You must be crazy to think that changing the game to flag football would help. It's not the same game, and no one wants to see that. It doesn't teach people how to play, and it's too easy to cheat so the flag doesn't come off. Hitting and tackling are a part of the sport, and it's why everyone watches the game. Also, what about head trauma in soccer? Those players actually use their heads to hit the ball! Without the contact, all of the excitement would be gone, even for the players. They would feel silly, and not as macho. They wouldn't work out as hard, and they'd be like 98-pound weaklings.

Paragraph 5

Injuries are a part of football, too. Players know what they are getting into. They might crack their skulls, or they might break their leg, or a rib. Some people have even died. I know most players think it won't happen to them, but they have thought about it. But people get hurt in lots of sports. A lot more people get hurt in accidents in shop class, or cooking over a fire, or getting beat up, or just walking to school. Why don't we try to guarantee safety in all of those places? You never know what's going to happen. We should keep football as it is, not eliminate it.

Paragraph 6

So in conclusion, football is too important to the school and to society to change it after its long and glorious history. You know everyone loves football. It is a violent sport. That's why people watch it, and that's why people play it. Football players would say that the rush of making a great play or winning an important game is more important than the risk of injury from concussion. It would be better to try to improve the way people tackle and try to build better, safer equipment than to remove football from schools. It would be like punishing the whole class instead of the person who misbehaves. The people who want to change football are just jealous because they could never play it!