



2015 NAPLAN Topic – Years 3 & 5

Try This Activity

Choose a sport, hobby or activity that you are interested in. Write to persuade a reader why they should try your chosen activity.

Note: This exemplar was written by Jen McVeity, creator of the Seven Steps to Writing Success and the author of over 20 books. She wrote this in the exact time that all children receive to draft and submit their NAPLAN writing test. We have not checked or changed Jen's spelling, grammar or punctuation – this example is exactly as she wrote it in the time allowed.

Planning (13 minutes)

Writing (31 minutes)

Editing (1 minute)

Sun, Sand and Memories

Sizzling Start (6 minutes)

Sun and sand, who doesn't love the beach? Now add in another word for the best sport I've ever played. Beach ... volleyball.

Here's how the sport goes. Take one beach, a net and three friends. Coat yourself in sunscreen. Someone serves and from then on it is dig, dive, set, spike. Now you are really sweaty and covered in sand. And your partner is pulling you up, a big grin on her face, slapping her hand against yours. 'Great spike!' she cries. 'Good point' say the opposition. And then you walk back to serve, the sun warm on your back and a smily on your face. That's just one point of the great game called beach volleyball.

Argument 1 (11 minutes)

You want to get fit? You could pay \$150 a month, join a gym, run on a treadmill to nowhere for an hour, and then lift some smelly weights. Or you could grab a ball and head to the beach. Much cheaper – and a whole lot more workout. According to those gadgets you wear on your wrist, In half an hour you will have run over 2 kms. And not jogged – sprinted at full speed trying to beat a ball before hit hits the sand. You've seen the calf muscles on bike riders? Nothing compared to the toned legs of a beach volleyballer after 2 kms of sprinting on sand. You want strong shoulders and great hand-eye co-ordination? You try leaping out of the sand and connecting with a ball to smash it over the net. Like to be supple? In beach volleyball you dive full length in the sand 10–20 times a game and then immediately leap up to hit the ball again. All for the cost of some sunscreen and a bottle of water.

Argument 2 (6 minutes)

What people remember most about beach volleyball are the bikinis and the hand signals. What I remember is the teamwork. One finger behind the back – 'I'll block line, you cover my back and take the cross court hit.' If you miss a serve, you partner just slaps your hand 'Next one,' she says with a shrug. You make a great shot 'Awesome! Amazing!' It's a smart game volleyball, so many strategies to work out, so many variations in each point. So you talk to your partner all the time, encourage, cheer them on, and make plans for the next winning shot. And afterwards you watch other people play, applaud great shots, tease them and learn from them too.

Argument 3 (5 minutes)

It's always been amazing to me that I can play a sport at such a competitive level even now. Beach volleyball may be a fantastic workout, but it is easy on the body. Remember Natalie Cook and Kerri Pottharst – they won gold in the Sydney Olympics. Both came from an indoor volleyball background and struggled so much with knee injuries they were both retired. Then they headed to beach volleyball and the rest is Olympic gold history. How many mothers do you know who can win Olympic gold medals after having kids? Kerri Walsh in the USA had two children and won gold last Olympics. When I look at the beach volleyball courts where I play there are times when I see fathers and sons playing together, mothers and daughters, I play with my own son ... What a wonderful experience it is play WITH your kids, not sit on the sidelines and watch and clap and then drive them home.

Ending with Impact (3 minutes)

There are days when I am on the beach and playing with my kids, or good friends, or even new people. There are times when I've won a medal, or just gone home tired and happy after a great day. Then there are the keeper moments – that wonderful feeling of happiness when you are with good people. You are on the beach, there's a lot of laughter and lots of talking. In the distance the sun is setting and the sky is golden and the last ball has been played.

Those are the moments that stay in your heart forever.

Come, grab a ball and head to the beach and join us.

Marked Results

2015 NAPLAN writing task – Years 3 & 5 Persuasive Genre

NAPLAN Marker: Anna Gojkovic, Master Teacher, Wellers Hill SS

Criterion	Marks	Score Given	Comments
Audience	0–6	5	Supports, engages and persuades the reader through deliberate language choices and persuasive techniques, including an engaging start. Writing has a strong voice.
Text Structure	0–4	4	All parts are well developed. Strong introduction that states position clearly. Body paragraphs contain elaborated arguments and the conclusion reinforces the writer's position in a detailed and meaningful way.
Ideas	0–5	5	Ideas are generated, selected and crafted to be highly persuasive. Benefits of beach volleyball are presented in a well organised manner, with a balance between a personal and social perspective.
Persuasive Devices	0–4	4	Persuasive devices suit the style of argument. They include appeal to reader: 'Come, grab a ball and head to the beach and join us', emotive language choices: 'What a wonderful experience it is (to) play WITH your kids', rhetorical questions: 'Sun, and sand, who doesn't love the beach?' and personal opinions and experiences: 'What I remember is the team work ...'
Vocabulary	0–5	4	Sustained and consistent use of precise words and word groups that enhance the meaning, e.g. 'run on a treadmill to nowhere'.
Cohesion	0–4	3	Meaning is clear on first reading and text flows well in a sustained piece of writing. Occasional lapses.
Paragraphing	0–3	3	Paragraphs support arguments and contribute to the development of the argument.
Sentence Structure	0–6	5	Sufficient evidence for Category 5. Uses a range of sentence constructions that show variety.
Punctuation	0–5	5	Sentence punctuation correct. Text uses a range of punctuation marks. Two missing commas allowed at this level in first draft writing.
Spelling	0–6	5	Correct spelling of most simple and common words <i>Errors:</i> it (hit); you (your) <i>Difficult words incorrect:</i> encourage (engourage); applaud (applause); Olympic (Olympics). <i>Difficult/challenging words correct:</i> happiness, wonderful, experience, daughters, competitive, struggled, Olympic, amazing, distance, opposition, shoulders, awesome, strategies, variations, coordination, volleyball, immediately

Total Score:

43 out of 48 – Band 10

Planning and Insights

While I firmly believe that the five minutes of planning time allowed by NAPLAN is not enough, I learnt from this test that spending 13 minutes on planning in a test situation is too much and it ate into my writing and editing time.

As an author I would spend another 2–5 hours editing a piece of writing. Then my publishers would edit it again and the proof reader would come in at the end. There is no such allowance in NAPLAN.

In future students may be able to write online and that will be a good thing. Once you learn to touch type you can type MUCH faster than we can handwrite and you can edit so much more freely. I found this test limiting as I couldn't 'quick-fix' my writing, in many instances I was halfway through a sentence and suddenly knew how to say it better.

I find the NAPLAN marking system excellent in that it values all the high level 'authorial' skills of writing. The 'secretarial' side (Spelling – 6 marks and Punctuation – 5 marks) is only 11/48 marks. The rest of the NAPLAN marking grid celebrates the creativity of writing – such as great ideas, engaging the audience, strong planning and communicating with strength. That's what we want all our students to be able to do – communicate well!

Thank you again to Anna Gojkovic (Wellers Hill SS) for being brave enough to mark this test and patient enough to explain to me how the marking system operates. It has been a wonderful learning experience.

Finally, sitting NAPLAN is a terrific tool for learning how to write under pressure and for understanding what our students go through. Do try it!

Jen McVeity

Author, Churchill Fellow, Creator of Seven Steps to Writing Success

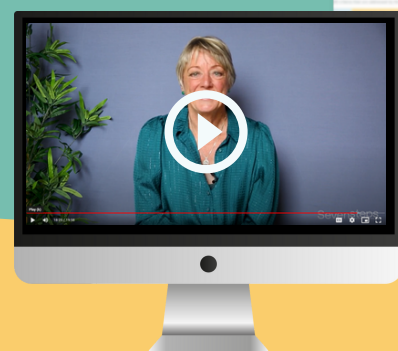
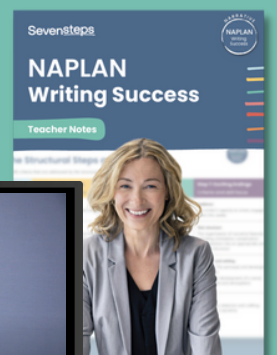


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