

The Role Sports Play in Academics for Students in the Lower Socioeconomic Class

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Problem of Practice

In other countries, sports are separated from academics. If one wants to participate in sport, one has to join a club. However, in the United States, we continue to provide sport opportunities to students. This means that society in the United States sees academic value within sport.

Research Question

Among the students that are in the lower socioeconomic class, does sports increase their hope and resilience, leading to higher academic achievement?

Hypothesis

Students from the lower socioeconomic class that participate in sports have more hope and resilience compared to the students from the lower socioeconomic class that do not participate in sports, leading to higher academic achievement.

Purpose of Study

Determine the academic value that sports provide to students.

Design

The researcher will provide a validated survey that measures resilience to students at a Title school. The survey will be given to both student-athletes and non student-athletes. The results of the survey will be compared and analyzed to see whether or not there is a difference between the two groups. There will also be data collection pertaining to GPA, academic achievement, attendance, etc. that will be used to analyze the difference amongst the two groups.

Results

Surveys will be handed out and data will be collected during the Fall 2018 semester at a to-be-determined Title 1 high school in Omaha. The results then will be analyzed and written in a thesis.

Importance of Research

Research done on the participation of sports and its correlation to resilience and academic achievement can provide understanding for the encouragement of student involvement within sports.

Findings from Literature

- A study showed that there is a significant difference in GPA between student-athletes and non student-athletes (Bodenburg, 2017).
- Sports positively impact students in several ways: time management, commitment, responsibility (Cirillo 2014).
- The more resilience a student has, the higher their academic achievement is (Shepard et al., 2012).

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References

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