



Assignment

Determine a Central Idea from Informational Text

Topic: Champions

Your Assignment:

Read the passage. Then answer the question.

Winners Don't Quit!

By Danta Johnson

"We Are the Champions!" blares over the loud speakers of a jam-packed stadium at the end of every championship game. No matter the sport or who wins, the team is honored with an extra loud rendition of this song and an overwhelming amount of colorful confetti. However, the journey to being crowned "champion" is forged with plenty of blood, sweat, and tears. Becoming a winner is no easy task, and it requires a lot of sacrifice, focus, and determination. Winners never quit and are not satisfied until they reach the top of their game.

Winning begins with a dream. It is often said, "If you believe it, you can do it." This is the attitude of a winner. Believing in yourself takes action and mental toughness. Taking action is practicing long hours and sacrificing free time, even sleep, to sharpen skills needed to be better than the rest. Kobe Bryant was known to wake up at 4:00 a.m. to practice his craft, but he didn't always want to do so. Sometimes he would rather sleep than get up before the sun to toss a ball around. He says, "Waking up at 4:00 a.m. adds to the mental toughness. It is really challenging mentally to get up and get out there to perform." Kobe sacrificed, or gave up, sleep in order to achieve his dreams.

It is not easy to remain focused on the prize. Distractions such as injury or failure can stop athletes in their tracks. Famed tennis player, Serena Williams, suffered a frustrating

knee injury that not only dethroned her from being the number one tennis player in the world, but it nearly ended her career. However rather than making an early exit from tennis, Serena chose to take time to rehabilitate her body so she could come back and play at a higher level. Although it was difficult and took a lot of focus and hard work, Serena continued to move forward and eventually regained her title.

Determination is at the heart of every winner. When faced with adversity, champions will do almost anything to succeed. It is not surprising that some unlikely people rise to the top because of perseverance and determination to fight without limits in order to attain their dream of being a champion. Champions refuse to lose.

Everyone dreams of reaching greatness, but only a few actually attain that status. Not everyone is willing to make sacrifices and remain focused just to achieve one dream. The glory of the spotlight and the numerous accolades showered upon the champions come at a high price. But, champions relish in the limelight and don't rest until they succeed.

Answer this question:

Stem Starters:

You may want to consider starting your response using one of these stems. You do not have to do so, but they are here to help you if you need them.

The author's central idea is...

The central idea is...

Your Response:
