



Assignment

Write an Opinion Piece Based on the Sources

Topic: Dodgers

Note: This task uses the same sources as another task. But even if you did that task previously, please read the sources again before you start writing (the sources are repeated below).

Your Assignment:

Your class recently went on a field trip to the California Science Center. You saw an exhibit about the mechanics of swinging a baseball bat and the players in history that science considers having the best swing. This got you thinking about the baseball teams in California and which you think is the best. So, you did some research.

As part of your research you found some sources. After you reviewed these sources, you answered questions about them.

Now, in Part 2, you will write an opinion piece using information you have read.

Directions for Beginning:

You will now review several sources. You may review the sources as often as you like.

Sources for the Performance Task:

Source #1

You have found a "Time for Kids" article about the history of the Dodgers:

Go Dodger Blue!

By Jose Edmin

The Los Angeles Dodgers Major League Baseball (MLB) team is one of the most popular sports teams in Los Angeles. It was the first MLB team to play in LA. The team moved from Brooklyn, New York in 1957, and they have been playing in LA ever since. The franchise, or the baseball team as an organization, has been around since 1884. That is more than 130 years! The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim are also a very popular MLB baseball team in LA. However, they have a shorter history in the area, and they do not have a record of winning that is as great as the Dodgers'!

The Dodgers have a winning history! They have won the World Series seven times. The World Series is played each year in October, and it determines which MLB team is the best. It is the championship of professional baseball. The first time the Dodgers won the World Series, it was in 1955, and the team had Jackie Robinson as a player. Jackie Robinson is famous, even without being known as a Dodger, for being the first African American baseball player to play in the MLB in modern times. They just won the World Series in 2020. Most people say that they are due, now overdue, because they lost two championships in a row due to the other teams stealing pitching signs. It could be argued that the Dodgers have technically won nine times even though they did not officially win.

The Dodgers are fan favorites for many reasons. They have a long history of bringing great baseball to the fans in blue! They have a fierce rivalry with the San Francisco Giants, another baseball team in California. Many people consider the Dodgers THE team in California, not just one of the many!

Source #2

You have found a chart that shows how many championships have been won by several of the baseball teams in California:

Let the Numbers Decide!

By A Loyal Giants Fan Since 1971

	Los Angeles Dodgers	Los Angeles Angels	San Francisco Giants	San Diego Padres
World Series Champions	7 Years: 1955, 1959, 1963, 1965, 1981, 1988, and 2020	1 Years: 2002	8 Years: 1905, 1921, 1922, 1933, 1954, 2010, 2012, 2014	0
National League Championship	24	Not applicable (N/A)	23	2
American League Championship	Not applicable (N/A)	1	Not applicable (N/A)	Not applicable (N/A)
Other title wins	18	10	11	5

What determines a winning organization? What makes one able to decide that they are “the best”? Many Californians believe that the best MLB (Major League Baseball) team in the state is the Dodgers. They have an extensive history in California. They are well-loved by their fans. But, do the numbers tell the story that the fans do? You decide...with the help of the numbers, that is!

Source #3

You have found another article in Scholastic News about the history of baseball in California:

We’ve Been Here Longer!

By Art G

It isn't often mentioned that the beginning of modern baseball in America, and more specifically in California, coincided with the Gold Rush of the mid-1800's, but Alexander Cartwright, the father of modern baseball as we all know it, moved west in 1849 with a love of gold and baseball in his heart! And so the beginning of California's long baseball legacy begins!

The first team in California was the Los Angeles Angels. They actually were not the Angels of modern day, but in 1921, one of the Wrigley family members (like Wrigley gum) bought the team and built a million dollar stadium for the team in South Los Angeles. The stadium was called Wrigley Field, and it was very much like the Wrigley Field that still exists in Chicago! William K. Wrigley, Jr. owned the Chicago Cubs and the Los Angeles Angels! The Angels played at that stadium until 1961 when it closed. The stadium was shut down 5 years later.

In 1958 both the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Francisco Giants arrived in California after a move from New York. They had been rivals in New York for nearly 70 years. The Giants decided to make the move when they heard that their big rivals, the Dodgers, were moving to Los Angeles. Thus began the "new" rivalry of the West!

When it comes to sports, everybody has an opinion! Which team is the best? It depends on which person you ask? Why is that team the best? It depends on which numbers you use to decide? Do the numbers tell the whole story? What about history and longevity? Doesn't it count for something being the first? Not even the sportscasters will comment on these tough questions! Go _____! What do you fill in?

The Assignment:

When your class was riding the bus back from the museum, your classmates begin to share their thoughts on baseball. One thing leads to another, and suddenly the discussion is which baseball team in California is the best! Many kids insist that it is the Dodgers, but others seem to disagree. Your teacher decides that this seems to be a "hot" topic, so he asks you to write a paper supporting your opinion.

In your paper, you will take a side as to whether you think the Dodgers are the best California baseball team or not. Your paper will be read by your classmates. Make sure you clearly state your opinion and write several paragraphs supporting your opinion with reasons and details from the sources. Develop your ideas clearly and use your own words, except when quoting directly from the sources. Be sure to give the source title or number for the details or facts you use.

REMEMBER: A well-written opinion paper

- has a clear opinion
- is well-organized and stays on the topic
- has an introduction and conclusion
- uses transitions
- uses details or facts from the sources to support your opinion
- puts the information from the sources in your own words, except when using direct quotations from the sources
- gives the title or number of the source for the details or facts you included
- develops ideas clearly
- uses clear language
- follows rules of writing (spelling, punctuation, and grammar usage)

topic: Dodgers

opinion: best team in California

long history in California	winners
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• started in 1884 in New York 😊• moved to California in 1958 (62 years ago) 😊	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dodgers due to win World Series 😊• Dodger more championships and titles overall ★
<p>Sources Key</p> <p>😊 = source #1</p> <p>★ = source #2</p> <p>❤️ = source #3</p>	

Your Response:
