

2006 North Carolina General Writing Assessment Grade 10

Write a letter to your local school board explaining the effects of a “no-pass, no-play” policy on the students in your school. You may use the following information, your own experiences, observations, and/or readings.

“No pass, no play,” of course, is the popular slogan for a policy that requires students to maintain passing grades in their core academic subjects to be eligible to participate in a school’s extracurricular activities. The slogan lumps together student athletes and all other students who represent the school in interschool competitions, from members of the drill team and pep squad to contestants in drama and chess...

Recent public debate about the “no pass, no play” policy, especially in the legislature and the media, proceeded without reliable evidence about the effect of the policy on individual students, in individual schools, and in schools across the state...

Source: O.L. Davis Jr., Editor, *Journal of Curriculum and Supervision*

In 1984, “Texas became the first state to impose academic eligibility requirements to participate in athletics. Since then nearly thirty states have established similar academic minimums, with many expanding the scope to include student participation in all extracurricular activities.”

Source: National Association of State Boards of Education

“Educational decision makers must look at the consequences of denying students the right to participate to get them to work harder in the classroom...These kinds of exclusionary policies may well damage overall achievement and work against those students who could benefit most directly from involvement.”

Source: John Holloway, “Extracurricular Activities: The Path to Academic Success?”

As you write a letter to your local school board explaining the effects of a “no-pass, no-play” policy on the students in you school, remember to

- Focus on the issue of a “no-pass, no-play” policy and the effects it has on students.
- Consider the purpose, audience, and context of your letter.
- Organize your letter so that your ideas progress logically.
- Include relevant details that clearly develop your letter.
- Edit your letter for standard grammar and language usage.

Use the blank sheet of paper given to you by your teacher to plan your letter. Anything you write on the blank sheet will not be scored. You must write the final copy of your letter on pages 3 and 4 of your test booklet.