

Area/Skill - LA, Writing	Cognitive Skill Level - Analysis/Evaluation	Correlation to Framework - 01.06	Lesson Number - 24
<p>Activity Title - Covering the Bases</p> <p>Goal/Objective</p> <p>To use a well-known graphic illustration to assist students in writing an essay.</p> <p>Lesson Outline Introduction</p> <p>The essay is a crucial part of the GED Language Arts, Writing Test. It is imperative that the student be able to write an essay that conveys the idea in a meaningful and accurate way. Using graphic organizers can be helpful in the development of a writing sample.</p> <p>Activity</p> <p>Have students visualize and then draw a baseball diamond. Next, provide a topic to the group. Have them fill in the “base” information. Assist students in developing a good topic sentence, three ideas with vivid details, and a conclusion that restates and concludes the main idea. Discuss how having a “game plan” is important when drafting an essay. Finally have the students cover each of the “bases” by writing a “home run” essay.</p> <p>Debriefing/Evaluation Activity</p> <p>After students have developed their essay, have them restate the “game plan” for a successful writing sample. Discuss whether they covered all of the bases in their essay.</p>		<p>Materials/Texts/Realia/Handouts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handout - Covering All the Bases • Paper and pencils • Dictionaries 	
<p>Real-Life Connection</p> <p>Have students expand this organizational skill to every day experiences such as getting ready for school, cooking a meal, completing a yard project, or planning a trip. Have them “fill the bases” with the different steps required to complete these real life tasks.</p>		<p>Extension Activity</p> <p>Have students write an essay using the “Game Plan.” Have students “umpire” by evaluating essays to see if they are “home runs.”</p> <p>ESE/ESOL Accommodations</p> <p>Provide students with pre-made diagrams to use for the activity.</p> <p>Have students verbally identify the main idea, supporting statements, and concluding remarks before writing them on the graphic organizer.</p> <p>Have students use the graphic organizer to initially write paragraphs rather than a five-paragraph essay.</p> <p>Provide dictionaries.</p>	

GED 2002 Teachers' Handbook of Lesson Plans

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Activity Title - Covering All the Bases

Introduction

Say: The essay is a very important part of the Language Arts, Writing Test. You will be expected to demonstrate the ability to write an essay that conveys your idea in a meaningful, accurate, and organized way. The use of some type of a graphic organizer can help you get started writing. Today you are going to use a very well-known graphic to develop your writing assignment.

Main Activity

Ask: Has anyone every seen a baseball game? What does the baseball diamond look like? *Say:* On the white sheet of paper in front of you, draw a baseball diamond with all of the bases and the pitcher's mound. Now connect the diamond as shown.

Use the handout as an overhead or draw the diamond as shown on the board or paper.

Say: Today, your essay topic will be _____. Put the topic at home plate. Next, list three ideas about the topic at 1st base, the pitcher's mound, and third base. Once you have written in your three supporting ideas, write down descriptors for each idea—words or phrases that describe what you want to say. Finally fill in your conclusion at second base.

Ask: What is the purpose of using a baseball diamond when developing an essay? How many paragraphs do you think you will have? Do you now have enough information to begin to write your essay?

Have students write an essay based on the ideas that they developed in the baseball diamond.

Debriefing/Evaluation Activity

After students have completed their essays, have them share them with the class. Debrief the activity by comparing the essays to the baseball diamond to see whether the student "hit a home run." *Ask:* What is the main topic or home plate? What are the three supporting ideas? What is the conclusion or second base? Were all of the bases covered?

Have students re-state the "game plan" for a successful essay—introduction of the main idea or topic, three supporting ideas, and the conclusion.

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Language Arts, Writing Lesson 24 Handout**

Covering All of the Bases

