

Appendix 15.4. Experiential Homework Assignment

This homework assignment is designed to prepare students for writing the Cultural Connections Research Essay. If feasible, it makes a good experiential complement to in-class lessons.

Follow these instructions:

Attend a baseball or softball game. We will discuss your observations in class on [specify date that gives students plenty of time to complete the assignment]. You may attend a major league game if you like, but you certainly do not have to. You may attend a Little League or Knothole game, a minor league game, a church or recreational league game, a high school game, or a local college game. Check team and school websites for schedules.

Answer the following questions in paragraph form. Remember to proofread your work.

1. What game did you attend? Tell us the details: date, teams, place, etc.
2. What seems particularly “American” about baseball? Use your observations of the crowd, the setting, the coaches/manager and players, and anything else you notice.
3. Observe any traditions or rituals performed before, during, and after the event. Describe them and point out how they contribute to the sport’s connection to American culture.
4. Follow the course of the game. Describe any drama that unfolds. What are you likely to remember from this game?
5. Finally, sum up and tell us why, based on your experience, you think baseball is America’s national pastime.