

How Extreme Should Sports Be?

Do some sports cross the line between fun and danger?

Bungee jumpers drop from great heights. Mountain bikers dash down rocky hills. Street luge riders race downhill on wheeled sleds at speeds of more than 80 miles per hour.

Those are some examples of *extreme sports*. They all have thrills, excitement--and danger.

Extreme athletes say they love taking risks. But others say that extreme sports are too dangerous. They say those sports shouldn't be played.

Are extreme sports too extreme? Read the following arguments. Then decide for yourself.

Yes! Extreme Sports Go Too Far!

People can become seriously injured while playing extreme sports. Risking serious injury to play a sport is foolish.

Take snow bikers, for instance. These riders fly down snowy hills at speeds of up to 60 miles per hour. Some snow bikers get the same kinds of injuries "that you might see in high-speed auto accidents," said one doctor.

Some rock climbers climb without using ropes. Some bungee jumpers leap out of helicopters. Athletes called *base jumpers* parachute from bridges and cliffs. There is no good reason for people to risk their lives doing those things.

Extreme sports set a bad example. Kids who see those sports on TV might want to try them at home. But they might not know how to play those sports safely.

When people play extreme sports, they are no longer playing games. They're being irresponsible.

No! Extreme Sports Don't Go Too Far!

Extreme sports have picked up a bad name. Some people just aren't used to the things extreme sports athletes can do.

Every sport comes with the risk of injury. Sometimes those injuries can be serious. Injuries in regular sports can be far worse than those that happen in extreme sports.

"I've seen two people killed in boxing rings. And I've seen two deaths in football," said Dr. Clifford Amenduri of Louisiana. "But I've never seen those kinds of injuries in extreme sports."

Extreme sports also have benefits that other sports don't have. Extreme sports can help young athletes build courage, some doctors say.

What about the thrills that come with playing extreme sports? "I like the risk," said Alex Dunand of Ottawa, Canada, a 14-year-old downhill skier. "If you didn't take risks, life would be boring."

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Which of the following is *not* mentioned as an example of an extreme sport?
 - A Bungee jumping
 - B Mountain biking
 - C Boxing
 - D Snow biking

2. How does the author organize the information in this passage?
 - A The author explains an argument and then provides evidence both for and against the argument.
 - B The author provides convincing evidence to persuade the reader of his or her viewpoint.
 - C The author explains a problem and provides examples of possible solutions.
 - D The author presents similarities and differences between two or more ideas.

3. Dr. Clifford Amenduri would most likely agree with which statement?
 - A Regular sports cause many deaths every year.
 - B Extreme sports might actually be safer than regular sports.
 - C Extreme sports are never on television.
 - D Extreme sports are much easier to play than regular sports.

4. From information in the section "Yes! Extreme Sports Go Too Far!," it can be concluded that a major concern may be
 - A the cost of the rehabilitation from injuries
 - B the influence extreme sports may have on kids
 - C the injuries from high-speed auto accidents
 - D the lack of game-playing in extreme sports

5. In paragraph six, the author writes, "Take snow bikers, for instance" to suggest that
 - A the reader should reference an illustration.
 - B the reader should take up, or learn, snow biking.
 - C snow bikers should be taken seriously.
 - D the author is about to use snow bikers as an example.

6. This passage is mostly about

- A care for extreme sport athletes
- B the differences between extreme sports
- C the medical profession's opinion of extreme sports
- D arguments for and against extreme sports

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Extreme sports have a bad reputation _____ they are dangerous.

- A because
- B but
- C although
- D if

8. Summarize the benefits of extreme sports that the author suggests.

9. Why are boxing and football included in this passage?

10. Read the following statement: "Extreme sports should be for adult-only viewing."

A person who agrees with the statement above would most likely agree with which side of the argument presented in the passage? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 740

Featured Text Structure: Argumentative – the writer presents evidence for both sides of an argument

Passage Summary: In “How Extreme Should Sports Be?,” the author describes extreme sports. Additionally, the author present evidence against, and then for, extreme sports.

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8. Summarize the benefits of extreme sports that the author suggests.

Suggested answer: The benefits include increased excitement through risks and the building of courage for participants.

9. Why are boxing and football included in this passage?

Suggested answer: In the section, "No! Extreme Sports Don't Go Too Far!," the author explains that that injuries in regular sports can be worse than those in extreme sports. The author then quotes a doctor who states that he seen four deaths in boxing and football, but has never seen such serious injuries in extreme sports.

10. Read the following statement: "Extreme sports should be for adult-only viewing."

A person who agrees with the statement above would most likely agree with which side of the argument presented in the passage? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

Suggested answer: A person who agrees with the statement above would most likely agree with the side, "Yes! Extreme Sports Go Too Far!" The author states, in that side's section, that kids who see those sports on TV may want to try them at home and may not know how to play the sports safely. So, the influence on kids' is a concern of the "Yes!" side. Thus, someone who agrees with the "Yes!" side may also support adult-only viewing of extreme sports.