

## Extemporaneous Writing Topic

### Letter to the Editor

There has been much discussion in your school about withdrawing all funding and support for clubs and student organizations so that school money is ONLY spent on academic and athletic pursuits.

If passed, this action would effectively eliminate your HOSA chapter.

You are to write a letter to the editor of your local paper expressing your opinion about this proposed policy.

You may wish to consider how school resources are currently used by your HOSA chapter when developing your response.

Tiger Woods has become a recent icon in society. His overwhelming strength at the tee and precision on the green has captivated the American public. Tiger's persistence on the golf course was not aided only by his coach and mentor, his father, but was also nurtured by his high school athletics program. However, while Tiger was perfecting his swing, his peers were studying to become physical therapists, nurses, and orthopedic specialists; attending Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) conferences to further their opportunities and knowledge.

Recently there has been discussion in my school about withdrawing support and funding for clubs and student organizations. This new school budget would only support academic and athletic pursuits, effectively eliminating all other extracurricular activities. Is this an effective solution for my classmates? Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) will be one of the many student organizations that my school will permanently withdraw support from.

HOSA is the nation's largest organization for students who wish to enter the healthcare profession. Students are able to collaborate, learn and gain experience for their future roles in the healthcare field through State and National Leadership Conferences. This excellent opportunity for young adults is not without a price, however. Presently HOSA holds car washes and bake sales to raise money for conferences and supplies. HOSA utilizes the support from my school in addition to the money raised for hotel rooms, food allowances and event supplies such as athletic tape and scissors.

HOSA has helped me realize the importance of my goals. Let the basketball team have their cheerleaders, much like I have the outstanding support of HOSA and my incredible HOSA advisor. One day, even the strongest athlete will need the advice of that physical therapist, nurse or orthopedic surgeon who chose to stay in the classroom. I can only hope that my school will continue to highlight my dedication to my profession now, before I become lost in the shadow of the next Tiger Woods.

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