

Accurate Author 2 Practice Activities

Is Pluto No Longer a Planet?

In the game Pluto's Secret, Nat tells his friend Geo that he heard that Pluto is no longer a planet. Is Nat right? Is Pluto no longer a planet? There's debate in the scientific world. National Geographic News says that, according to the International Astronomical Union (IAU), a full-fledged planet is an object that orbits the sun and is large enough to have become round due to the force of its own gravity. Because Pluto doesn't meet these standards, the IAU classifies Pluto as a dwarf planet.

Not everyone agrees that this is a good way to decide, though. Andy Cheng, a planetary scientist at Johns Hopkins University, says that the new rules aren't clear enough and asks the question "how round is round? ...I'll still continue to maintain that Pluto is a planet," he said.

Owen Gingerich is an astronomer and historian at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and head of the IAU committee proposing the definition. He favored a special distinction for Pluto. Gingerich supported a proposal to call the big eight planets classical planets—as opposed to just plain "planets"—and Pluto and the others dwarf planets, so there would be two classes of planets. He believes that reclassifying Pluto as a dwarf planet is not "sensitive to the historical and cultural role that Pluto has played."

The argument continues. In the meantime, however, Nat and Geo are correct—new textbooks will list Pluto as being a dwarf planet.

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Good readers take the time to investigate writers to make sure they are “**Accurate Authors.**” To accomplish this, make sure you look for **Author's Sources, Acknowledgements, and Bias.**

Author's Sources

- A person, organization, or piece of writing (book, magazine, website, etc.) that provides information or a statement that an author cites or references within his/her own writing.

Acknowledgments

- When an author makes a point of expressing thanks to or admits to using the work of someone else. Usually, this is printed at the front of a book.

Bias

- When someone has a personal prejudice or mental inclination towards one thing over another. A bias can be favorable or unfavorable.

Please read the passage “Is Pluto No Longer a Planet?”

Next, investigate to see if the information in this passage is accurate. To accomplish this, first check to see if the author used any other sources or references in the writing?

- What other sources did the author use?

Then check to see if the author acknowledged any other experts during the writing.

- Who did the author acknowledge in the writing?

Finally, decide if the author showed any bias when he or she was writing? Are there any clues that might indicate bias?

As a concluding challenge, have a conversation with a family member or friend. Discuss whether you believe Pluto should be considered a planet and why.

What is the Best Sport in the World?

– Matt Smith

A topic that often gets sport fans squabbling is when they are asked to name what they think is the best sport in the world. Forums are awash with people passionately arguing that their personal favourite is the best, but can we subjectively decide which is the best? The best sport in the world could be judged under several different categories such as; most watched, most valuable, most played, etc.

There are thousands of sports that are played throughout the world, but some are vastly more popular than others. This can depend on which country and even where in that country you live. But there are certain sports that you can find people playing no matter where you are in the world.

It is extremely difficult to identify an individual sport as "The Best" because it comes down to personal preference. Many factors can influence your opinion, for example if you are an American you are much more likely to be a fan of one of the big four national sports (American Football, Baseball, Basketball and Ice Hockey) than you would be a Cricket fan, and vice versa, if you live in India you're more likely to be a fan of Cricket than one of the big four American sports. If, however, we judge the best sport primarily on statistical evidence, then one sport would stand out. Football (Soccer) is both the most played, the most watched and the highest grossing sport in the world, hands down. No other sport is followed on such an epic scale, spanning every continent. Therefore, our winner would be Football (Soccer), but that doesn't have to mean it is your favourite. Ultimately, only you know which is your favourite sport, so what is the best sport in the world?

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http://thesquabble.com/sport/what-is-the-best-sport-in-the-world/#.T-s5UnD_sXi

About Matt Smith

I am a professional Blogger, running my own site: TheSquabble.com
Which lets people debate and vote on a wide range of topics!

Please read the passage What is the Best Sport in the World?

Next, investigate to see if the information in this passage is accurate. To accomplish this, first, check the copyright information to see if the information is current.

- What is the copyright date?

Second, check the author's credentials. Is the author of this passage is an expert on the subject?

- Explain if you believe the author is an expert on the subject matter.

Third, look to see if the author referenced or cited other sources within the writing.

- List any other sources the author used.

Next, attempt to find if the author acknowledged any other experts within the writing.

- List any other experts the author acknowledged.

Finally, use any clues or your own feelings to discover if the author displayed any bias within the writing.

- Write down if you feel the author was biased in this passage. Why do you feel this way?

As a challenge sit down with a family member or friend and discuss what this author could have done to make his writing more accurate. Then, for fun, talk about what your favorite sport is and why.