

Prewriting (The Plastic Plight) Practice Activities

Tackling the Difference: Rugby vs. Football

Fans cheer from the stadiums and their living rooms. Kids of all ages play pick-up games of one of America's favorite sports—football. American football owes some of its characteristics to its ancestor, rugby. However, there are differences between the two popular sports.

Rugby is a sport of continuous, hectic action, while football is slower paced, with many starts and stops. Football players have specific roles and positions. In contrast, all rugby players on the field can run, pass, kick and tackle. While both the football and the rugby ball are oval shaped and 11 inches long, the rugby ball has flatter ends. Football players suit up in heavy pads, gloves and helmets. Rugby players, in comparison, may choose to wear only minimal, if any protective equipment. To advance the ball in football, forward passes are allowed. In rugby, only sideways or backward passes are permitted. Both sports determine a champion team through a major tournament. Rugby Union fans cheer at the World Cup, whereas the Super Bowl thrills the followers of football.

Prewriting Activity

First, read the passage “Tackling the Difference: Rugby vs. Football.”

Next, take a few minutes and create an initial list of topics you could write about. For example: football, rugby, or another sport you enjoy. Or feel free to generate ideas about other activities you like to do, things you've experienced, or topics you're passionate about.

My initial list of topics for my prewriting activity include:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Compare your Prewriting Activity to **Nate's Think Aloud**

Prewriting is any **planning activity** that helps the writer think about topics or ideas that can be developed into a piece of writing.

Planning Activities include: brainstorming, writing lists, free-writing, discussion, drawing, and role-playing.

Organizational Strategies include: grouping ideas and information into a web or cluster, or creating a preliminary outline.

Correctness in grammar and mechanics are **NOT** the focus of a prewriting activity.

A great idea when writing is to **focus on something you know about**. This can help you get started when writing.

After completing your initial list of possible topics to write about, now choose one of those topics and create an "Expanded List" of ideas and details surrounding that one main topic.

My Expanded List
Topic:

Detail #1:

Detail #2:

Detail #3:

Detail #4:

Detail #5:

Next, create a "Graphic Organizer Web" to visually cluster your thoughts and ideas. To help you see this process, look at Nate's Think Aloud, Expanded List, and Organizational Web.