

A

Title: Injured player in the NHL.

Audience: Members of the media and the general public.

Background Information: The audience is aware of the recent injuries in the NHL, including the injury of the player in question. The audience wants the perspective of a player to assess the damage being done.

Context: Press conference after a big game.

B

Underline = stress word

Did you know that the CBC made 2.84 million dollars broadcasting game six of the Leafs-Islanders series? The CBC is receiving phenomenal ratings from the 2002 playoff season. <sup>(pause)</sup> Nevertheless these playoffs have been the most dangerous and rough <sub>emotion</sub> I have played in my career.

I believe I speak on behalf of all the players when I say that the game needs to be changed. <sub>emotion (soft fist on table)</sub> The NHL needs to increase safety on the ice and confidence in the game.

My injury is a minor one in comparison to the <sub>refer to injured body part</sub> injuries of this season to Zednik and Pecca. Both players will be out for the rest of these playoffs, and their teams must struggle without them. The ... fans have responded to these injuries with disapproval, as have the players.

After the success of safer olympic hockey,

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C

why does the NHL continue to ignore violence? (Pause)

Olympic hockey had faster <sup>excitement</sup> faceoffs, this discouraged, if not prevented players from getting into scraps in between plays. Hockey in Saltlake also allowed two line passes. This gave the players more opportunities for break-aways. These elements of the game could be incorporated into the NHL, along with other improvements.

There are many aspects of NHL hockey that I feel can be enriched. <sup>(Pause)</sup> Some of the problems include equipment, ice size and refereeing system.  
count 3 aspects on finger

The equipment is made of hard plastic which contributes to the injury of many players.

We the players think that the ice size is too small; we feel confined, we need more room.

Finally we are finding that the two-man refereeing system slows down the game.

These problems can be easily corrected. Players

D

should be restricted on the type of equipment they can wear, and the size.

Secondly the ice size can be increased to allow <sup>more room</sup> for more room for us to play. If the ice size is bigger we can perform better and feel safer.

Most importantly <sup>(Pause)</sup> we feel the league should introduce a third referee. We feel that unfair calls are being made because the referees cannot agree on the proper penalty.

These solutions would improve the quality of the game <sup>(Pause)</sup> without distorting the league's image. I believe that the fans will be pleased to see clean hockey on their televisions, and less injuries to the players.

A clear reason for the recent injuries is violence. <sup>(Pause)</sup> For years the media has emphasized that violence in the NHL is out of control and

E

I agree.

On the ice, the players establish rivalries, or get caught up in the spirit of the game; they make dangerous hits. That move could knock their opponent out for the rest of the season. The league is too lenient of such hits. Many dangerous hits are considered legal. The league must revise the rules of the game to protect players.

Many of us fear that one day somebody will get killed on the ice.

The officials must enforce all penalties, and the players and coaches must respect these calls.

My goal as a player is to enjoy the game and reach my potential. The game is more fulfilling when it is played cleanly, and fairly. It is the role of our General Managers to oversee the changes that need to

F

be made. We the players challenge the GM's to adapt new strategies.

I believe that the NHL can be improved a great deal. One day the players will feel safe again and it will be a family game. The National Hockey League must adapt Olympic rules, improve the environment in which we play and improve the officiating system.

I hope the message of the players has reached everybody in this room. To the fans at home, be heard! Let the league know how you feel about violence in the game. Thank you for coming, I look forward to playing again next season.

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G

## Bibliography

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Duhatschek, Eric. "Violence in Playoffs Isn't New." Globe  
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## Teacher's Notes

## Knowledge/Understanding

- The student demonstrates considerable understanding of the facts surrounding the chosen issue. The student is aware of a number of causes of injuries to professional hockey players (e.g., "Some of the problems include equipment, ice size and the refereeing system"; "Many dangerous hits are considered legal. The league must revise the rules of the game to protect players"). The student discusses the various aspects of the issue – rules and conditions of the game, behaviour of the players, consequences of changes for the league – with ease and assurance.

## Thinking/Inquiry

- The student supports the perspective taken using ideas of considerable relevance to the purpose and audience. To make the game safer and more enjoyable, the student recommends a variety of changes (e.g., adopting the rules of Olympic hockey, increasing the size of the rink), and explains why they are needed. The student's description of the benefits of such changes effectively supports his or her perspective (e.g., "These solutions would improve the quality of the game without distorting the league's image. I believe that the fans will be pleased to see clean hockey on their televisions, and less injuries to the players"). The ideas expressed are relevant to the audience of fans in the general public, and the media, who "For years [have] emphasized that violence in the NHL is *out of control*...".

## Communication

- The student organizes information and ideas with considerable appropriateness. The speech follows an effective problem/solution format (e.g., problems with equipment, ice size, and the refereeing system are introduced, and possible solutions to the problems are then offered). However, the student does not explain the connection between the attention-catching opening question (about the money made from broadcasting hockey games on television) and the topic of the speech (reducing hockey injuries).
- The student uses language and a voice that are appropriate to a considerable degree for the speaker. The persona of an injured NHL player is convincingly

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portrayed and consistently maintained throughout the speech (e.g., “Nevertheless these playoffs have been the most dangerous and rough I have played in my career”; “We the players challenge the GM’s to adopt new strategies”). The audience is addressed indirectly, through references to their needs and opinions (e.g., “The fans have responded ... with *disapproval* ...”; “For years, the media has emphasized ...”), and directly, through an appeal: “To the fans at home, *be heard!*”.

### Application

- The student uses oral presentation techniques with considerable effectiveness. Techniques include the use of personal anecdotes ( e.g., “My injury is a minor one in comparison ...”), short emphatic sentences (e.g., “To the fans at home, be heard!”), and rhetorical questions (e.g., “why does the NHL continue to ignore violence?”).
- The student builds in speaker notes with considerable effectiveness. The notes cover tone of voice (e.g., “mock”), body language ( e.g., “make eye contact ...”), and timing (e.g., “pause”).
- The student predicts a resolution that is realistic and effective to a considerable degree. The student identifies the general managers and the fans as people with the influence to bring about change. The student also summarizes the types of changes he has described in the body of the piece (e.g., “The National Hockey League must adopt Olympic rules, *improve* the environment in which we play and *improve* the officiating system”).

### Comments

This work is representative of a solid level-3 performance. The student demonstrates a considerable degree of achievement of the expectations in all four categories of knowledge and skills.

The result is an effective and persuasive speech that addresses the factors that lead to injuries in professional hockey and proposes solutions that are realistic and specific. The speech portrays the persona of the speaker, namely, an injured hockey player, consistently and with considerable effectiveness.

### Next Steps

In order to improve his or her performance, the student needs to:

- review the components of a paragraph (e.g., topic sentence, supporting ideas, and concluding sentence) and use them consistently throughout the speech;
- consider ways of making the introduction relevant as well as interesting;
- edit work to remove minor errors in spelling and grammar (e.g., “less injuries” should be “fewer injuries”).