

Topic: In sport, winning is everything

Introduction: ‘The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part’ was adopted as part of the Olympic principle by the founder of the modern Olympics, Baron Pierre de Coubertin. But try telling that to those celebrating Team GB’s success in the London and Rio Olympics. Everyone from footballers to tennis players and even the equestrian (horse riding) team are being told to show more competitive ruthlessness as the rest of British sport suffers under a weight of comparative failure. Yet at the same time footballers and cricketers are under fire for showing bad sportsmanship and there are general complaints about the the loss of fun and decency, which are now a rarity in sport.

But what is sport for? Some suggest it is a spectacle, either for entertainment or admiring excellence. Others thinks its purpose is the breaking of records and boundaries, and trying to reach the limits of human potential. The Victorians thought it taught moral principles, and some feel this still has relevance. Today the government chiefly promotes its benefits in terms of tackling obesity, social exclusion and youth crime. Is winning (and losing) integral to the purpose and pleasure of sport, or can we still get those benefits through non-competition?

Essential reading:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gp_yKmA5PwE
- <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2007/nov/25/features.sport9>
- <http://www.spiked-online.com/newsite/article/3995#.V2Eu3LsrLcs>

Agree	Disagree
http://www.spiked-online.com/newsite/article/5452#.V2Esb7srLcs http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/commentators/terence-blacker/terence-blacker-winners-dont-always-play-by-the-rules-807772.html http://youthsports.rutgers.edu/general-interest/24-articles/44-the-role-of-winning-in-youth-sports https://www.theguardian.com/football/2007/jul/19/sport.comment	http://www.footy4kids.co.uk/how-to-coach-youth-soccer/soccer-coaching-articles/is-winning-everything/# https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2008/jun/28/wimbledon.tennis http://www.theguardian.com/education/2004/jul/14/schoolsports.schools HTTP://BLOG.COACHUP.COM/2014/12/23/WHY-WINNING-IS-OKAY-BUT-WINNING-AT-ALL-COSTS-IS-NOT/ https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2015/sep/24/winning-everything-sports

What are you arguing (FOR OR AGAINST):	Facts or statistics
Point 1:	
Point 2:	
Point 3:	
Point 4:	