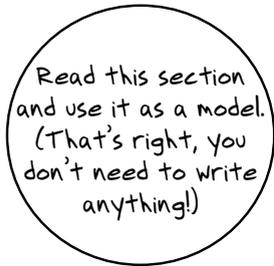


NONFICTION: "Dazzle and Danger" • SKILL: Key Ideas and Details/Author's Craft, page 1 of 3

# Understanding the Author's Argument

We have listed three ways the author of "Dazzle and Danger" builds her case that "no pain, no gain" can be a harmful mentality for young athletes. For the first, we've also provided lines from the article that support our statement. Then we used what we listed to explain how the author used evidence to support her main idea.

**Directions:** Fill in the missing information for the second and third statements. Use what we wrote for the first statement as a model.



**The author tells the story of Gabby Taylor, who suffered a life-altering injury as a result, at least in part, of the "no pain, no gain" mentality.**

## Support from the article:

1. "The first time they tried the stunt, Gabby remembers the flyer's shoulder landing on her neck—hard. The pain was searing, but Gabby ignored it. They needed to get the stunt right, and she didn't want to let her teammates down." (p. 5)
2. "The second time they tried the stunt, Gabby felt the pain again. This time, though, it was worse, and Gabby sensed something was wrong." (p. 5)
3. "*Push through the pain*, Gabby told herself." (p. 5)
4. "'Doctors have told me that if I had refused to do that stunt a second or third time, I still might be cheering and in college today,' [Gabby] says." (p. 8)

## How the author uses the support to tell the story of Gabby Taylor and her injury:

The author presents an emotional true story about a young cheerleader named Gabby Taylor, who suffered a life-altering injury as a result, at least in part, of the "no pain, no gain" mentality. The first time the stunt went wrong, the author writes, "the pain was searing, but Gabby ignored it." Gabby attempted the stunt again because she didn't want to let her squad down. This time, she knew that "something was wrong," but told herself to "push through the pain." The author also quotes Gabby saying that doctors have told her she might have made a full recovery if she had not repeated the stunt after the first or second time it went wrong.

In this section,  
you explain how  
the author uses  
the support we  
found.

**The author describes warrior culture in youth sports—a key aspect of which is the “no pain, no gain” mentality—as harmful.**

**Support from the article:**

1. “Lord and other experts agree there is another reason kids are getting hurt in cheerleading. It has to do with what’s known as ‘warrior culture,’ a mentality that likens a sports team to soldiers in battle. Nothing is as important as winning. Loyalty to teammates matters more than personal health. Persevering through injury is considered downright heroic.”
2. “This mentality is held by all kinds of athletes: Soccer players who score goals with torn knee ligaments, volleyball players who serve with sprained wrists, football players with concussions who keep tackling.”
3. “The motto ‘no pain, no gain’ has become an accepted norm.”

**How the author uses the support to describe warrior culture in youth sports as harmful:**

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In this section,  
you write the  
support and explain  
how the author  
used it..

**The author shares Gabby's message about sports safety.**

**Support from the article:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. \_\_\_\_\_  
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**How the author uses the support to share Gabby's message about sports safety:**

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