

English: Sports II

Rules For Your Presentations

- Both students have to speak during (each not less than 1/3)
- 60 min (+-10%)
- It must include
 - An interactive discussion about a controversial issue
 - A learning activity (e.g. an article with questions or a test)
- Introduction information about the sport: disciplines, key words, significant Czech heroes, a very brief explanation of the rules
- No listing of dates, dimensions of fields or other information easy to find

- Only switching
- Questions mutually (unless...)

Dates and Topics

Date	Topic	Who (Two Names)
	Gymnastics	
	Athletics	
	Swimming	
	Volleyball	
	Basketball	
	Ice Hockey	
	Football (Soccer)	

The 'Rich Countries With Snow In Winter' Olympics

By New Matilda on February 16, 2010

Every four years the Olympics come around and the prickly criticism reaches a crescendo. We talk about the lavish costs, the impact on the local communities, the enormous waste, the huge inequality between competing nations and the humiliating team uniforms. Worse, we go on about how this event is in no way inclusive.

Frankly, I'm tired of it. Oh, I know it's all true. Look at a map of the world — there's almost no participation from around the equator and if you leave out Australia and New Zealand there's only about 20 athletes from the entire southern hemisphere. I just don't want to hear about it anymore.

The way I see it, there are three ways to end griping on a subject that irritates you: 1. Silence it; 2. Ignore it; or 3. Remove the basis for complaint. In this case I reckon Number 3 is the simplest way to go — but don't worry — I'm not for a minute suggesting the IOC should clean up its act or that petty city administrations all over the world should end their collusion with these guys in the huge rort that the Olympics have become. No, I'm just suggesting a name-change for marketing purposes so that all the people currently complaining that the Winter Olympics don't live up to their lofty ideals will shut up for a while.

I'm simply suggesting the IOC rename the thing a bit more accurately and I think "The Rich Countries With Snow In Winter Olympics" has a certain ring to it.

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The benefits of a rebranding are pretty obvious. For a start, you won't hear people making narky observations about the unrepresentative nature of the winter carnival because the new name will be completely open about this particular. Suddenly it will seem perfectly natural that Liechtenstein, with a tiny population of a few thousands, managed to put together a team of seven athletes — more than the combined teams of South Africa (49 million), Ethiopia (population 79 million), and India (1.177 billion). The fact that Liechtenstein gets plenty of snow in winter and is perhaps the richest country in the world per capita will only confirm the IOC's point.

For the IOC the credibility boost would be immediate, turning this otherwise closed shop into a model of transparency overnight.

There will be other benefits. Dropping the all-inclusive tone (which seems mandatory with anything marketed as "Olympic") will set the ethical bar for the event at a more achievable height. When squabbles break out about trademarks and logos, for example, they won't be thought unseemly — after all, a tournament for rich countries quite openly revolves around money — and will be celebrated rather as part of the general spirit of competition.

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When we drop the pretence at lofty ideals, we also drop the baggage they carry, like the expectation that some kind of ethical principle should prevent low-income areas in Olympic cities being handed over as a windfall gift to real estate developers. For people who don't even have a home, there will no longer be the fear that they may be bused out or hidden away as the games draw near.

That fear will be replaced by complete certainty and they can plan accordingly. Visitors to the games won't have to pretend to themselves that this is a city without homeless people — they can instead admire the determination of the Olympic venue in making everything ship-shape for the games and secretly wish their own hometown administration had half as much spunk.

Clarifying exactly who the games are for doesn't avoid criticism entirely, but it would certainly take the edge off. You could still accuse them of all the same things they do right now but you couldn't call them hypocrites so most of the sting would be gone. The Rich Countries With Snow In Winter Olympics would have saved itself from most of this tedious criticism not by changing anything fundamental but by simply doing what it says on the box.

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For those who still care about the actual events themselves, there would be welcome relief from the constant jibes that the Winter Olympic events don't serve any practical purpose whatsoever. As a carnival for cooler countries with powerful economies it will seem perfectly normal that there is no competition over something useful like ice fishing or a snow mobile event, or events in which athletes must stay overnight battling the harsh elements. The luxury of ignoring practicalities is one of the great things that comes with being a rich country.

The question of where that leaves poorer countries is a good one. I wouldn't support excluding them entirely — indeed there's a good case to be made for giving them a handicap in some of the peripheral events (which they already have when you listen to some of the overly sentimental commentary). Of course handicaps lead to arguments but that's the sort of thing that keeps the Olympics going.

Indeed, in the longer run, the poorer and warmer countries will have the last laugh as the climate pushes the event further up mountains and deeper into the northern hemisphere until it finally runs out of planet.

At that stage, I'll be right behind the IOC when it wisely relocates the whole thing to one of Dubai's indoor ski parks and we can put this whole irritating business behind us.

<https://newmatilda.com/2010/02/16/rich-countries-snow-winter-olympics/>

Welcome to the Olympics, as Complicated and Controversial as Ever

The stories of the athletes who aren't in PyeongChang say as much about this Winter Olympics as the stories of the ones who are.

Michael Rosenberg, Feb 9, 2018

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — Welcome to the Olympic Games, where we put our political differences aside and welcome everybody, unless we caught the bastards cheating or they decided the Olympics were not in their business interests.

A few folks are missing. NHL players are not here. Some Russians are here, but some are not and the nation of Russia officially is not. North Korea was not supposed to be here, but is, after a decision to march together with South Korea under a unified flag, play a little hockey with the South Koreans, compete in other sports separately, and then resume the threat of nuclear annihilation at the proper time.

To understand the bizarre state of these Olympics, consider: The face of the Games should be Ahn-Hyun Soo. He is a South Korean and one of the great short-track speed-skaters in history. Koreans are *obsessed* with short track. Every Ahn-Hyun Soo race here should be a mini-Super Bowl, a Mardi Gras on ice. Every Ahn-Hyun Soo race should give Koreans the same euphoric feeling that Americans get when they realize the breakfast buffet is still open.

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But since Ahn made his Olympic debut, at the 2006 Turin games, he:

1. Had a falling-out with the South Korean skating federation.
2. Went shopping for a new country.
3. Picked Russia.
4. Started competing under the name Viktor Ahn.
5. Watched as Russia got nailed for a massive doping campaign, sidelining Ahn.

So now Ahn is banned from his home games, which are no longer his home games. Strangest of all, perhaps: Even though he ditched South Korea for Russia, it is generally accepted that South Koreans blame the federation, not Ahn. It does stink for South Koreans that they can't watch their favorite athlete in their favorite sport.

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Ahn found out officially Friday that his appeal to compete in these Games failed. The announcement came from Matthieu Reeb of the Court of Arbitration for Sport. Reeb is CAS's Secretary-General, which, one presumes, means he gets to invade countries but must take notes while he does it. Reeb read his announcement at a press conference, but did not take any questions. Tragically, this meant Reeb left without speaking to the unbiased reporter in the front row wearing a shirt that read:

I DON'T DO DOPING

I AM ZA SPORT

(Man, I love the Olympics.)

Some background: Russia was banned from the Olympics for a blatant and rampant system of doping. Now some Russians are allowed to compete, but in the grand tradition of inane sports penalties, they are not allowed to compete *for* Russia, but merely as people from Russia; their official designation is "Olympic athletes from Russia." The official Russian positions: We did not cheat; everybody is out to get Russia; if we DID cheat, then come on, everybody does it; but we did not cheat; vodka; once again, we did not cheat. It is unclear how this will affect Russia's application to the Southeastern Conference.

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In a wildly amusing twist, despite being banned, Russia may win the one event it cares about most: men's hockey. You may remember that four years ago the Russians had wild and intense dreams of winning the gold in Sochi, Russia, only to realize that while they were dreaming so wildly and intensely, they apparently forgot to hire a coach. They did not win a medal. But look now: the NHL decided to pull out of the Olympics, citing the league's longstanding "What's In It For Us?" policy, which means Sidney Crosby, Connor McDavid, Auston Matthews and their peers are home. Meanwhile, Russia has some NHL-quality stars who have chosen to play in Russia, including Pavel Datsyuk and Ilya Kovalchuk. If Russia wins the men's hockey gold medal, it will be one of the great achievements of these Olympics—second only to me getting out of this paragraph without making a joke about the 2016 election.

<https://www.si.com/olympics/2018/02/09/winter-olympics-pyeongchang-controversy-viktor-ahn>