

2025 MIAA Sportsmanship Essay Contest Rubric

What Does Good Sportsmanship Look Like From The Stands?

Spectators play a powerful role in shaping the atmosphere of any athletic event. Their energy, words and actions can inspire athletes, set a positive tone, and demonstrate the true spirit of the game. Whether cheering in the stands or watching from the sidelines, spectators have the opportunity to model good sportsmanship and support all participants with respect and pride.

Let your voice remind us that good sportsmanship is not just for players – its starts in the stands. Help fans understand how their behavior impacts the game and how they can contribute to a positive and respectful environment. In your essay be sure to:

- *Define what good sportsmanship means for fans and spectators*
- *Describe the types of behaviors that reflect positive support (e.g., cheering respectfully, applauding all players, showing appreciation for officials, etc.)*
- *Explain why these behaviors matter to athletes, coaches and the community*
- *Offer suggestions or examples of how spectators can lead by example at games*
- *Utilize [feedback shared by attendees](#) of the 30th Annual MIAA Sportsmanship Summit*

Criteria	Excellent (4 points)	Good (3 points)	Fair (2 points)	Needs Improvement (1 point)
Definition of good sportsmanship for fans and spectators	A sophisticated and nuanced definition is provided, going beyond basic concepts.	A clear and complete definition is provided.	The definition is present but lacks depth or clarity.	There is no clear or an inaccurate definition.
Description of behaviors that reflect positive support	Detailed, creative and specific examples are provided.	Several positive behaviors, are clearly described.	Descriptions are brief or lack detail.	No descriptions or irrelevant examples are provided.
Explanation of why behaviors matter	A compelling and insightful explanation of the impact is provided.	A clear explanation of why behaviors matter is provided.	The explanation is general or superficial.	The impact is not explained or the arguments are unclear.
Suggestions/examples of how spectators can lead by example	Actionable, creative, and inspiring suggestions are offered.	Clear suggestions and examples are provided.	Suggestions are limited or generic and lack detail.	No suggestions are provided.
Use of MIAA Sportsmanship Summit feedback	Specific feedback is skillfully integrated throughout the essay.	Feedback from the summit is clearly referenced and used.	Feedback is mentioned briefly or superficially.	There is no mention of the feedback.
Organization and writing quality	Exceptionally well-organized essay with clear, logical flow; no spelling or grammar errors.	Well-organized essay with minor spelling or grammar errors.	Some organizational issues; several spelling or grammar errors.	Disorganized essay with numerous spelling or grammar errors.