

Lesson Plan

A New Award

Book: *Ronald Acuña Jr.: Baseball Star*

Series: Biggest Names in Sports

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students explore how and why awards are used in sports and to create an award of their own.

Supplies

- *Ronald Acuña Jr.: Baseball Star* book
- Whiteboard
- Pencils and paper

Before the Activity

Read *Ronald Acuña Jr.: Baseball Star* as a class, or assign it to students to read on their own. Make sure all students have paper and pencils ready.

Activity

Ronald Acuña Jr. won the Silver Slugger Award in 2019. To learn more about this award, open the book to page 25 and invite a volunteer to read the first sentence on that page: “This award goes to the league’s best hitter at each position.” Explain that the phrase “at each position” means the award is given to several players each year. For example, Acuña’s teammates Ozzie Albies and Freddie Freeman also won Silver Slugger Awards in 2019. Acuña’s position is outfield. Albies plays second base, and Freeman plays first base.

Because hitting well is an important skill in baseball, the Silver Slugger Award is one of the sport’s top honors. However, there are many other awards that athletes can win. Depending on the sport, awards can go to players with the most points or best skills, or they can focus on other parts of a player’s actions or character. Winners of some awards receive a medal or trophy. Other awards just give winners the honor of being chosen.

Ask students to imagine that they are creating a new award athletes can win. It can be for any sport of their choosing. Students should brainstorm answers to the following questions on a sheet of paper:

- What sport will the award be for?
- What skills or abilities are important parts of that sport?

- Which of these skills or abilities will the award honor?
- Will the award go to one player or several players?
- Will the award include a medal or trophy? If so, what will it look like?
- What will the award be called?

After brainstorming, each student should write a paragraph describing the new award. The paragraph should explain what the award's name is and how players can win it, as well as any medals, trophies, or honors that go along with it. After students finish writing, invite a few volunteers to share their ideas with the class.

Evaluation

Collect students' work at the end of class, and give each student up to 12 points:

- 6 points for answering the questions in the brainstorm
- 3 points for writing a paragraph about the award that included its name, how players can win it, and what those players receive
- 3 points for using good spelling, grammar, and organization in the paragraph

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' writing standards, grade 4 (W 4.4, 4.8).