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AP English Composition, Period 3

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Winning Isn't Everything:

Commonplace Books #1, Hamblin and D'Agostino Receive Sportsmanship Awards

Summary:

In this news article from *The Telegraph*, "Athletes Awarded Rare Olympic Trophy Following Touching Show of Sportsmanship," author Callum Davis recognizes the sportsmanship and selflessness of Olympics 2016 athletes Nikki Hamblin and Abbey D'Agostino, who earned the prestigious Pierre de Coubertin award as a result of their helping each other during the 5000m race. First, D'Agostino assisted Hamblin and helped her get back on her feet "after a fall that tripped them both," and then Hamblin sacrificed her own chance at a medal after D'Agostino fell and was injured, waiting with her until she received medical assistance. Davis notes that the award has only been given out "17 times in Olympic history" (Davis).

Bias:

Though this is not an opinion piece, Davis displays positive bias toward the athletes, using phrases like "Hamblin's admirable compassion for her fellow athlete" (Davis).

POSITION	OPPOSING POSITION
Claim: Davis believes the athletes deserve this recognition and suggests that good sportsmanship is an essential part of the Olympic spirit. Evidence: • “captured the essence of the Olympic spirit” • “You can be both a competitor and kind and responsive at the same time” - quote from Hamblin • Title: “touching show of sportsmanship”	Opposing Claim: Some people may think that the Olympics should only be about the winners or the competition itself, and that giving a separate award for sportsmanship is weak or soft, like “points for trying” instead of true success. Evidence: • Olympic motto “faster, higher, stronger” • Daily updates on Google as to which medals each country wins, “ranking” each country by performance • Search on “too much emphasis on self-esteem” yielded 800,000+ results, mainly opinion pieces suggesting that the American trend toward praising effort or intention is misguided and doesn’t prepare kids for success in “the real world,” which they argue values competition

Davis, Callum. “Athletes Awarded Rare Olympic Trophy Following Touching Show of Sportsmanship.” *The Telegraph*. 22 Aug. 2016. Web. 31 Aug. 2016.

<<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/olympics/2016/08/21/nikki-hamblin-awarded-rare-olympic-medal-following-touching-show/>>.