

## My Childhood Game

Engaging beginning; topic of the essay is clear

Like "Cops and Robbers," "Secret Agent" is a creative and imaginative game. You have to prepare for this game and set up the rules. There are certain people who like to play the game. I think this game is in some ways like the real world, but it is also different. I don't know if all kids play Secret Agent, but in my family we have a great time playing it and using our imaginations.

Title refers to the main idea of the essay.

Main ideas support the controlling idea and are in the order they'll be presented in the essay.

Controlling idea/thesis is original and interesting

First body paragraph supports the idea: "You have to prepare for this game..."

First, to play Secret Agent you will need to make up code names like "Black Cobra" or "The Fog." Everyone should pick a name that sounds mysterious and powerful. Then you will set up a mission, like a bank robbery or a murder. Next, everyone has to pick a weapon for themselves. This is my favorite part, because to pick the right weapon you have to imagine you are going into battle. Once you have chosen your names, mission, and weapons, you are ready to review the rules and start playing.

Author understands that the reader needs background information and descriptive details to get a clear sense of this game and to remain interested in the essay.

Second body paragraph supports the idea that "You have to...set up the rules (for the game)"

There are many rules in the game Secret Agent. Some of the rules usually stay the same. First, you never die. Second, once you're done with your part of the mission, you help your teammates. Finally, have fun and use your imagination! Rules can be added, discarded, or changed, but your idea needs to be reasonable and everyone playing

The author uses a variety of sentence structures to pull the reader's attention and interest.

has to vote on it.

**Third body paragraph supports the idea that**

"There are certain people who like to play the game."

Most of the time, I play this game in the summer when my cousins Omar and Diego come from Bakersfield. I mainly play with Omar because Diego is only two years old, but we find a way for Diego to play by letting him run around and get saved by us. We meet our other cousins who live in Oakland and all the cousins play together. For the four cousins who are closest in age, it is like a reunion game for us since we don't see each other often. When we play the game, we get to feel close again by having fun together and making up missions that are exciting for everyone.

**Specific details provide background and humor.**

**Fourth body paragraph supports the statement**

"I think this game is in some ways like the real world, but it is also different"

I think that Secret Agent is similar to real things in the world because it has C.S.I. and F.B.I. situations. You can even use parts of stories that you see on TV shows or in the news to make your missions more interesting. Then again, it's different because you can't die, the weapons aren't real, and you use your imagination.

**Here, the author deepens and develops the topic, providing insight about the importance of the game.**

Although some people might think that using your imagination is childish or not important, it actually is more than just playing games. For me the most important thing about playing Secret Agent is that it is a way the kids in my family feel close even though we live far apart.

**The conclusion creatively restates the main ideas and sums up insights developed within the essay.**

**Correct use of standard English structures and punctuation is evident throughout.**

## **Commentary**

*This essay is an example of 6<sup>th</sup> grade advanced expository essay writing. The essay presents a clear thesis and does so in a engaging fashion. The writing provides specific background information that orients the reader. The writer's use of personal experience to illustrate the rules and fun of the game make the writing interesting and lively. The writer uses a variety of strategies to define and explain the topic. There is significant sentence variety in the essay along with clear control of writing conventions and spelling.*