

Chapter 4– Essay Questions

1. The authors argue that sports are *sites* for socialization experiences rather than *causes* of socialization outcomes. They use examples from research to illustrate what this means. Choose one of those examples and show how and why sports are more accurately viewed as sites for socialization experiences than as causes of socialization outcomes.
2. It is difficult to understand the socialization experiences of an athlete unless you have an understanding of the social world in which the athlete plays a sport. Use at least two examples from the chapter to illustrate this point.
3. Many people see socialization only as a personal experience, but social scientists are now doing research showing that socialization is a community and cultural process that emphasizes images and messages going beyond the experiences of individual athletes. Use at least two examples from the chapter to illustrate the ways that sports involve processes of community and cultural socialization.
4. You have a friend who has a form of cerebral palsy that affects speech and coordination. He loves sports but will not play, even when you invite him to play with you and your other friends. He says he feels uncomfortable whenever he finds himself in the middle of the Empire of the Normal. You ask him what he means. What does he tell you?
5. You are writing a grant to fund research on sports and socialization. After reading the chapter, you have decided that there is a need to do research on two particular topics or issues. Which topics do you choose to include in your grant proposal? Explain why research on these topics is needed and how your findings might be used to extend our knowledge of sports and socialization.