**PLANNING**

CLAIM: Derek Jeter is a role model. (Role Model = inspires others to be great, someone who has a clear set of values, is committed to community, selfless and accepts others for who they are, and has the ability to overcome obstacles [from the Role Model reading])

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| **PROS/FOR** | **CONS/AGAINST** |
| * Dreamed of being a Yankee since the age of 8 and worked towards achieving that dream. (Jeter xviii) * Mowed a football field with a push mower at the age of 10 to learn about overcoming obstacles from his grandfather (Jeter 94)   #1 - Weak   * "I have to say, I can't recall even a single tip or rumor that this guy ever got up to any trouble," Levine says. "I wish I could give you something. There are some athletes we could talk about for hours, about all the horrible and nasty stuff you hear. With Derek Jeter, I've not heard a thing." (Doyel) * "He's obviously one of those rare athletes where I can bring my daughter to a Yankees game and say, 'This is a real hero,'" Levine says. "And I myself am a Mets fan. Certainly if anything ever came across the pike, we would have looked into it. But in 15 years, I've frankly never heard one bad thing about Derek Jeter." (Doyel)   #3 - Strong   * “I’ve always like being a leader who leads by example…I have to tell you that it’s incredibly satisfying to know that you’ve helped someone by being yourself, by simply enjoying life and being a decent person” (Jeter 200).   Conclusion | * Nobody is as perfect as Jeter appears to be – he just hasn’t been caught * He’s a baseball player – good for other baseball players to look up to, or kids who play baseball, but it’s limited to that area and not a role model for EVERYONE to recognize – Ms. Myer-Morss didn’t even know who he was, just that he played for the Yankees   Use to counter the counter (turn it back in my favor)  #2 - Counter |

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Period 7

Persuasive Essay

Looking Up to a Role Model

In September of 2014, one of the greatest baseball players of this generation retired from the sport. Derek Jeter, after twenty-years as a New York Yankee, decided it was time to hang up the cleats and pinstripe uniform to move on to other things. Very few can argue how much of a role model he is. A role model is a person who inspires others to be great, someone who has a clear set of values, is committed to community, and has the ability to overcome obstacles (Price-Mitchell). With this definition, Derek Jeter is undeniably worthy of being a role model.

As a role model, someone has to be able to overcome obstacles. Jeter has obviously overcome lots of obstacles to achieve his childhood dream of playing for the Yankees. One of those obstacles was simply learning about obstacles. When Jeter was 10 years old, his grandpa asked him if he’d like to go to work with him. Jeter said yes since none of the other grandchildren had had that opportunity. When he got to his grandfather’s work place, he saw that his grandpa had to mow, with a push mower, a football field with high grass. His grandfather left the work to Jeter. As a 10 year old boy, he struggled: every 20 feet he had to stop and dump the bag of grass, and the work took over six hours. But at the end of it, he finished and felt accomplished. He reflected on the experience saying, “It helped me understand the importance of hard work and it helped me realize that I didn’t want to do the difficult blue-collar job that my grandfather did so well…I (was) going to work even harder to make sure I (was) a baseball player” (Jeter 94). At such a young age, Jeter recognized the importance of hard work and valued the lesson his grandfather taught him; he overcame that obstacle and set his sights much higher.

It might appear initially that Jeter is beginning to appear like a role model from his 10 year old experience, but others would disagree. Jeter has remained out of the spotlight in terms of scandal and rumors, which is great, but raises the questions of why and how. How could someone be so perfect? How could someone not mess up and get caught when he’s looked to so often as a great player in one of the most loved and hated organizations. Even a teacher at Overland Trail Middle School, Lacey Morss, asked who he was, only knowing that he played for the Yankees, but didn’t look at him as much more. The thing that proves is that Jeter is a role model for athletes, not for the whole world. Nevertheless, the “unknown” Derek Jeter, whom none could speak ill of, has achieved his childhood dream of being a Yankee, maintained a prominent role in the spotlight, and avoided all scandal and rumors. Even the executive editor for *The National Enquirer*, Barry Levinesaid, “I have to say, I can't recall even a single tip or rumor that this guy ever got up to any trouble…I wish I could give you something. There are some athletes we could talk about for hours, about all the horrible and nasty stuff you hear. With Derek Jeter, I've not heard a thing" (Doyel). If even a huge tabloid, which lives off of every tip and rumor cannot get anything on Jeter, he must be something special.

Jeter is so much more than a person who has overcome obstacles and stayed out of the rumor-mill; Jeter is a rare person in this day and age who exemplifies what people of all ages should aspire to: being a role model. If one were to list out all of the events in Jeter’s life that would make him qualified, the list would be overly extensive. A few events on that list would include: his appreciation for his family, his prayers before games thanking God for his blessings and asking that both teams play to the best of their abilities and that no one gets hurt, his dedication to the sport, his undying love for his teammates and the Yankee organization, his willingness to challenge barriers, his MVP in the World Series, his three World Series Championships, the fans’ tears on his final day, and his understanding and commitment to the role he was blessed with. Jeter is so much more than a Yankee. As Levine said in the closing of his interview: “He's obviously one of those rare athletes where I can bring my daughter to a Yankees game and say, 'This is a real hero,' And I myself am a Mets fan. Certainly if anything ever came across the pike, we would have looked into it. But in 15 years, I've frankly never heard one bad thing about Derek Jeter" (Doyel). A person so pure in talent who has remained untarnished by the spotlight deserves to be recognized as a role model.

A role model is someone who others looks up to, who is committed to his or her role in the spotlight, who overcomes obstacles, and has a clear set of values. Derek Jeter has become a role model for every young athlete, every person hoping for fame, every current “living in the spotlight” person, and even those who simply need someone good to look up to in a world often filled with bad. Jeter is a role model, and maybe one day even, he may become a legend who exceeds his time as someone to be remembered.

Works Cited

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