# **CAREER BRIEF** (Grades K-2) SPORTS COMMENTATOR



A sports commentator describes and gives updates about what is happening during a sporting event. Sports commentators can be seen on television and the internet and heard on the radio. There are four types of sports commentators, including a play-by-play commentator, color commentator, sideline reporter and sportscaster.

## WHAT DOES A SPORTS COMMENTATOR DO?

- A play-by-play commentator is the main speaker during a sporting event, describing each play and explaining what is happening.
- The color commentator shares their experiences when they were an athlete or coach.
- A sideline reporter goes to the games and interviews players, gives updates on injuries or other exciting news.
- A sportscaster reports sports news from a television studio. Sometimes they might have their own sports talk show or be a newscaster for a news station.

# *\*Fun Facts: Although the first sporting event to be broadcast over the radio was a boxing match in 1921, sporting events were being sent by telegraphic messages as far back as the 1890s.*

## **EDUCATION**

• College degree in broadcasting or communications is preferred.

#### TRAINING

- On-the-job training at television or radio broadcasting stations.
- Experience with reporting and writing.

#### SKILLS

- Strong speaking skills.
- Ability to keep organized.
- Ability to work with others.



From way downtown, BANG! - Keith Olbermann