

CAREER BRIEF

(Grades 6-8)

SPORTS COMMENTATOR



WHAT IS A SPORTS COMMENTATOR?

A sports commentator gives his/her audience coverage of a specific sporting event in real time, delivered through a variety of ways, including television, radio and the internet. 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 primary speaker during a sporting event, describing each play and explaining what is happening to viewers while the sporting event is in action.
- The color commentator brings experience and personal knowledge of the sport to viewers, often sharing their own experiences as an athlete or coach.
- A sideline reporter brings coverage from the playing field, interviewing players, giving 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 or sports anchor 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.
- Hands-on experience as an intern under the mentorship of radio and television professionals.
- Experience with reporting, writing and other journalism functions.

SKILLS

- Strong communication and speaking skills.
- Ability to improvise.
- Organizational skills and ability to meet deadlines.
- Ability to work in a team environment.