Your English teacher has asked you to write an essay giving your opinion on the following statement.

There is too much sport on television

Stage One: Thinking.
Do you agree with the statement? Are you going to give only arguments for or against the statement, or are you going to present a balanced viewpoint? (Both are equally valid approaches)

Stage Two: Planning.
If you decide to write only for or against, the plan might look like this:

**Introduction**
2nd paragraph – sport on TV means football, it’s boring
3rd paragraph – only appeals to men – sexist
4th paragraph – TV money has corrupted sport, false values

**Conclusion**

If you decide to give a balanced viewpoint the plan might look like this:

**Introduction**
2nd paragraph – FOR- there is a lot of sport on TV, TV money has corrupted sport
3rd paragraph AGAINST – TV is only giving people what they want (supply and demand) nowadays there are lots of channels, so people can choose

**Conclusion** – on balance I don't agree

Stage Three: Writing.

Here is an example of an essay which follows the first plan.

Nowadays, many people complain about the amount of sport on television, and there are good reasons for this.

For one thing, sport, in this context really means football. Football must make up a good 90% of all the airtime devoted to sport. The matches themselves seem to last for hours, and they are followed by interminable discussion and analysis.

The time devoted to sport, especially football, is a clear reflection of the male-dominated nature of the mass media. Few women have much interest in football, yet whole channels are devoted to it. This is because the programme planners and owners of TV channels are overwhelmingly male.
In addition, the money which TV pours into football has led to the sport itself becoming increasingly money-dominated and corrupt, as shown by the various match-fixing scandals which have come to light in the last few years. More and more young boys dream of becoming professional footballers, instead of doing something worthwhile with their lives.

To conclude, it is my opinion that TV's obsession with sport, in particular football, is boring, sexist and corrupting, and we would all be much better off if there was a great deal less of it on our screens.