**A good report should follow this pattern:**

1. **Assertion/claim—this is the point you are trying to make. It is not a fact. You will need to support it with fact.**
2. **Evidence—Give specific facts, examples, statistics, etc., to support your assertion/claim.**
3. **Explain—Elaborate on your evidence. Add follow-up sentences that explain how the evidence supports your point.**

**Take out three different colored highlighters and highlight the assertion in one color, the evidence in another and the follow-up explanation in the last color. You will notice some places have lines for writing. Those are the places where you will have to add explanation.**

Jackie Robinson was a man ahead of his time.  He was the first black baseball player to play in the major leagues in the United States at a time when **segregation** was the norm. In the 1940s, blacks and whites were supposed to be “separate but equal,” in all areas of public life.  Under Jim Crow Laws, blacks were not to use the same public facilities as whites.  Therefore, they had separate schools, hospitals, public restrooms, drinking fountains, and sports leagues and teams.  Often times, facilities for blacks were far from “equal” as called for in the Supreme Court ruling of *Plessy v. Ferguson*.  Black baseball players in the negro leagues made roughly one-fourth the salary of a white player in 1905 and they weren’t allowed to change in the clubhouses at the fields.  They were given uniforms that didn’t fit them and no real coaching to improve themselves. (<http://coe.ksu.edu/>)  Jackie Robinson was a leader on and off the field in the sport of baseball and in the fight for Civil Rights for all races in America.

On the baseball field, Jackie Robinson proved himself a leader by being one of the best of his time in the game.  In his first season with the Dodgers, he batted .297, led the team in runs scored with 125 and hit 12 homers.  He carried the team to the World Series, but lost to the Yankees.  Still he was named National League Rookie of the Year in 1947.  He would follow this with the National League’s Most Valuable Player Award in 1949 after leading the league in batting (.347) and stolen bases (Peterson 37)  He was inducted into Baseball’s Hall of Fame in 1962 five years after his retirement. Robinson was such a skilled baseball player that he made it impossible for people to deny that a black man could and should play for the major leagues. He proved that a black man can be as good if not better than any white man in the sport, and he let his bat do the talking for him.

Not only was Jackie Robinson a leader on the baseball field, but he was also a leader in the civil rights movement.  Robinson faced a lot of racism, especially in the beginning of his baseball career. Half the Dodgers threatened to quit when he joined the team, he was spiked and kicked during games, fans yelled racial taunts at him, and he even received mail threatening his family. (Peterson 38) However, Jackie didn’t fight this racism with his fists or his temper.  His club president, Branch Rickey told him upon signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers “he would have to curb his temper if he was abused or taunted by white players or fans … I want a player with guts enough not to fight back.  You’ve got to do this job with base hits and stolen bases and fielding ground balls, Jackie. Nothing else.” (Peterson)  Rickey was afraid that if Robinson became violent or aggressive in response to the racism he faced, people would claim that it was actually necessary to keep baseball segregated. It must have been infuriating to have to ignore all the abuse and just play the game, but luckily, Robinson had the strength and courage to do so; he fought back only with his skill on the field. As a result, people had no choice but to accept that integration was possible.

Even after he retired from baseball in 1957, he continued to be a leader in the fight for racial equality.  He promoted the Civil Rights Movement with letters like the one to President Kennedy advising him to continue the fight for Civil Rights legislation and threatening to block his re-election if he fails or loses his focus:  “ I will continue to hope and pray for your aggressive leadership but will not refuse to criticize if the feeling persists that Civil Rights is not on the agenda for months to come.” (J. Robinson)  Unfortunately, President Kennedy would not live to see the Civil Rights Act become law in 1964 or to know whether Robinson would vote for his re-election.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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As a result of his leadership on and off the field, Jackie Robinson left a lasting legacy in baseball and in civil rights.  His legacy included a baseball record that was hard to beat, but more importantly, he paved the way for people of other races and ethnicities to play baseball in the major leagues.  The year after he entered the National League, black players Larry Doby signed with the Cleveland Indians and Dan Bankhead signed with the Dodgers, Robinson’s team. (Peterson) In 2012, roughly 34% of Major League Baseball players were black or Latino. (pewresearch.org) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Jackie Robinson proved himself a true hero to his race and all races by breaking down barriers in the game of baseball and in civil rights in America.  He fostered a new era of integrated professional sports and carried this fight into the public sector until segregation was abolished as a practice in America.  His legacy lives on in all professional sports today.  He integrated American athletics for all generations to come.  He will forever be honored as a true leader in the game of life.