Article of the Week #5

1. ​Survey​ the text

2. ​Read​ closely and show evidence by ​CODING THE TEXT. I=Interesting,?=Question, \*=Important,!=Surprising  A=Agree, D=Disagree, C=Connects to something else I know.​

3. Look up ​vocabulary ​to clarify understanding

4. Write a gist summary statement

5. Complete questions on a separate paper.

No More Heading: U.S. Soccer Out With New Guidelines for Youth Soccer

*Scott Stump*

*Today.com*

<http://www.today.com/parents/no-more-heading-us-soccer-out-new-guidelines-youth-soccer-t54971>

The days of kids 10 years old or younger heading the ball in a soccer game or practice are over.

In **resolving** a class-action lawsuit regarding the large number of concussions in the sport, the U.S. Soccer Federation has issued new guidelines either **banning** or limiting players heading the ball depending on their age. Children 10 years or under will no longer be allowed to head the ball in practice or games, while players ages 11 to 13 will only be allowed to do it during practice, not games.

The changes have come after a class-action lawsuit brought by a group of parents and players last year in U.S. District Court in California that sought rule changes preventing head injuries. The lawsuit charged FIFA, U.S. Soccer and the American Youth Soccer Organization with negligence for not addressing the issue. In 2010, more high school soccer players suffered concussions (50,000) than athletes in wrestling, baseball, basketball and softball combined, the lawsuit noted, according to The New York Times.

The changes come at a time when concussions have become a serious concern, particularly in youth soccer and football.

Reaction to the policy has been mixed. Former U.S. national team member Taylor Twellman, an ESPN soccer analyst whose career came to an end because of multiple concussions, was in favor of the move. Others viewed it as a step back in the development of young players.

Some experts claim the ban on heading could result in more talented players in the coming years because they are forced to become more skilled with their feet. TODAY's Matt Lauer, a parent of a youth soccer player, also weighed in.

"I have a 14-year-old who plays soccer, and I really think it's a question of them learning the proper technique, but if they can't master it at a very young age, it can cause damage,'' Lauer said. "They're saying it's the repetitive nature of heading the ball that could be the problem."

1. Define banning as used in the article.

2. Define resolving as used in the text.

3.Aside from his career as a soccer analyst, what other job did Taylor Twelmann likely have?

4. The author includes a direct quote from Matt Lauer. In your opinion, would Matt Lauer be considered an expert? Does this quote make the information more believable?

5. The text states that one individual “was in favor of the move. Others viewed it as a step back in the development of young players (paragraph 5).” Is the new ruling on heading in youth soccer a good solution to the concussion issue, or is there a better method to be considered? **State your claim in a well-developed paragraph citing evidence from the text.**

6. Write a note from a soccer coach advising players and their families of the new heading policy for youth soccer. Include at least two specific points mentioned in the ruling and at least three reasons for the new ruling. Each point or example should be cited. Be creative.