

I Say Change is Good

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For over 100 years people have said baseball is an untimed game, but now things are changing. Baseball has a major problem and I think that we might have just found a solution, although some people may not agree. In the article by CNN the author talks about how the

average time of a game has increased over the years. He states that the implication on the pitch clock will lead to more action and less standing around which will help make the game more fun to watch. It will also make games shorter and will increase the overall action that happens throughout the game. Old and new players have even said that the game is becoming too slow. I feel that this will be overall beneficial for the game, and I agree with the author. I say baseball is going to be more successful because of this new rule.

The first thing that I think that the pitch clock will be a good change is that it will lead to more action. A quote from the article by CNN states “The implementation of the “pitch clock” will lead to more action and less standing around — in other words, more baseball.” I agree with this because there is a lot of dead time in baseball, but a pitch clock will help eliminate that and will increase the action. Baseball has never been a timed game and lots of people think it shouldn’t be. One MLB game in 2020 between the New York Yankees and the Cleveland Indians lasted a whole four hours and fifty minutes, and I don’t know about you but that seems like way too long. I think that the pitch clock will help get rid of some of the unnecessary time that makes the games last longer than they should. In just one season of minor league baseball using the pitch clock the average time of a game dropped by 25 minutes. It dropped the total time of the game down from three hours and three minutes to two hours and thirty-eight minutes. This may not seem like a lot, but it makes a big difference. In an MLB season each team plays 162 games and if they make the playoffs, it could be more. Over time the game has become slower and slower but with the pitch clock it has been proven to make the game quicker.

Another important point I want to bring up is that the pitch clock will help with attendance. “As the length of MLB games has increased, attendance has gone in the opposite direction, with smaller crowds last season than pre-pandemic levels. MLB Commissioner Rob

Manfred hopes a clock will help reverse that trend.” People over the years have been saying baseball is a dying sport. I don’t think the sport is dying but I do think that the attendance numbers are slowly decreasing and fans are starting to not watch games as much. This used to be the same problem basketball had. Before the National Basketball league had a shot clock teams would sometimes take up to 5 minutes to take a shot and if they had the lead, they would just hold the ball and not shoot at all. Coaches of the teams even said it themselves that the way the slow pace of play will eventually kill the game. One fan named Danny Biasone said that “I’m not an expert of the game, but I know that fans don’t want to pay to watch them dribble the ball around all game. This is very true before basketball added the shot clock it was not a highly watched or attended game like it is today. When the league finally added the shot clock the attendance immediately went up 40%. This shows the pitch clock can help drive fans to the games and can increase attendance.

“Now baseball is putting pitchers on a stopwatch for the same reason the NBA adopted the 24-second shot clock in 1954: to make games more entertaining for fans.” This quote shows that the pitch clock can help create more action in the game of baseball and make it more entertaining. In basketball when they added the shot clock the scoring in the games immediately increased and the fans became more satisfied. I think the pitch clock will do this for baseball by getting rid of all the unnecessary dead time. There is too much time during the game where players are just standing on the field in between plays and not doing anything. Dead time has increased 17% over the past couple years. The pitch clock will help eliminate some of this time and will overall increase the action throughout the game. More action will do a lot of good for the game. Not only will it make the game more entertaining for fans it will also help players stay more engaged in the game. Baseball has probably been one of the least action packed sports over

the years. But the pitch clock can change all of that and make it just as entertaining as all the other sports.

Some current and former players think this is a good rule change, “New York Mets announcer Keith Hernandez, a former star player, said the game has gotten too slow even for him. “I honestly feel that when I’m retired, when I stop doing what I’m doing now in the booth, I won’t watch baseball that much anymore,” he said in January. “It’s three-hour games now, three-and-a-half, when I played it was two-and-a-half. I still love the game, but they’re lengthy.” I agree with this as someone who has played baseball and likes the sport, it can be a boring game to watch. Lots of players think the pace of the game is too slow and it needs to speed up. When I played baseball, I often found myself getting very distracted in-between plays because of how much standing around there is and how much deadtime there is in between each pitch. If there was a pitch clock it would make people pay more attention and the players would be more locked into what is going on because they would have to watch the clock, and everything would be paced faster.

Baseball is an old sport that has never been timed, but over the years the game has become too long. I say now the game needs to have a change more than ever. There are a lot of people around the baseball community who think that they shouldn’t change anything, and they especially think that the game shouldn’t have a timer because baseball is one of the only sports that isn’t timed. A pitch clock would increase attendance and bring more fans to games. It would increase the action and get rid of dead time, And a timed clock has helped basketball before and it can help baseball as well.

References

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Authors Note

In the new version of my essay I added a title page because I saw the it was used in the example essays. I have never used one before and I think that it is one way that ive grown as a write from this essay. I also added some commas to get rid of some run on sentences. I feel that I have grown a lot in the use of my punctuation because of this essay. Based on my peers feedback I changed some of the wording in my essay to mak it have better transtions.