**Paragraph 1:**

Long before the Angels, there were the Negro Leagues. Babe Ruth is often held up as the model of the quintessential American baseball player, but how can that be when he never played against a single African-American player? Long before the great Jackie Robinson, there were many talented black ballplayers who were never given an opportunity to play major league baseball. Why are they and where do they stand in the history of baseball?

**Paragraph 2:**

The Angels were not always from Anaheim. When they first started, they were known as the Los Angeles Angels and they played in a small ballpark in L.A. called Wrigley Field. They moved to Anaheim in the early 1960’s and changed their name to the California Angels. A few years ago, they changed their name to the Anaheim Angels, and recently they have changed it again – they are not the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

**Paragraph 3:**

The Angels missed the playoffs this year. Why? They let Vladimir Guerrero go to Texas and tried replacing him with Hideki Matsui. This created a notable drop in offensive production. Losing their best hitter, Kendry Morales, to a broken leg in a freak accident also contributed to the poor year. Last, their bullpen was far too inconsistent to propel a team into the playoffs.

**Paragraph 4:**

I remember my first Angels game. Coming through the tunnel with my Uncle Phil, I had a thrill in my stomach. As I emerged from the shadow of the tunnel, the field emerged. The grass was so green it hurt my eyes. I could hear the whack of the bat, and as I looked up I saw a lazy fly ball falling harmlessly into shallow center field. That was the moment my baseball life began.

**Paragraph 5:**

Baseball, more than any other sport, is a game of statistics, and as such, has been terribly stained by the steroids issue. As a result, cheaters like Sammy Sosa, Mark McGuire, Barry Bonds, and A-Rod have broken many of the hallowed records. This is a travesty, so it is the commissioner’s job to mark all of these records set in the steroids area with asterisks.

**Paragraph 6:**

The food at Angel Stadium is awful and overpriced. I have been to a number of stadiums (Seattle, Boston) where the food is excellent – but in Anaheim it is very dull. Hot dogs, peanuts, nachos, and Cracker Jacks make up most of what is offered. This is a far cry from the clam chowder in Boston or the fish and chips in Seattle.