

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Baseball Strategy: The Game Within the Game

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. In this situation, I might mix up my pitches to keep the batter off balance. I'd consider throwing a breaking ball or an off-speed pitch to disrupt their timing. Location-wise, I'd aim for the edges of the strike zone, trying to induce a swing and miss or a weakly hit ball. It's crucial to stay focused and execute the chosen pitch with precision.
2. The defensive team will aim to prevent the runner on third from scoring. They may bring the infield in to cut down the runner's chance to score on a ground ball, and the pitcher may attempt to strike out the next batter. The offensive team will try to drive in the runner with a well-placed hit or a sacrifice fly. They may also consider a squeeze play to catch the defense off guard.
3. Baseball is like a chess match because it involves strategic thinking, anticipating the opponent's moves, and making decisions that can have a significant impact on the game's outcome. Coaches, players, and managers must constantly adapt their strategies based on the situation, making it a thinking person's game.
4. As the manager, I would closely monitor the pitcher's performance, considering factors like their pitch count, signs of fatigue, and the score of the game. If the pitcher continues to struggle, I would look at the strengths and weaknesses of the upcoming batters and assess which relief pitcher in the bullpen matches up best against them. The goal is to maximize the team's chances of getting outs and winning the game, so I'd make the pitching change at the right moment to turn the tide.

