

Name _____

Baseball Sign Language: Cracking the Code of Coaches and Players

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Paying attention to the signals from the third base coach is crucial because it helps players make split-second decisions on whether to run, stay on base, or execute specific plays. For example, if the coach signals to steal home, I need to be ready to sprint towards home plate as soon as the pitcher starts to throw the ball.
2. The ethics of sign stealing in baseball are a matter of debate. Some argue that it's a legitimate strategy, while others believe it goes against the spirit of fair play. Personally, I think it's more fair to rely on your team's skills and knowledge to win rather than trying to decode the opposing team's secrets.
3. Changing signs during a game can affect a team's strategy by keeping the opposing team from predicting their next moves. For instance, if the signs change, the opposing team won't know whether we're planning a bunt, a hit-and-run, or a steal, making it harder for them to defend against our plays.
4. A situation where a player and a coach might need to use Baseball Sign Language is when a runner is on second base, and they want to communicate which pitch the batter should expect or if they plan to steal third. The coach might use a series of hand signals to convey these instructions, and the player on second base would need to understand and act accordingly.

