

We Need Basketball Courts

Jia Yang

BEFORE YOU READ: Learn and try using the following vocabulary and phrases: *relatively new*, *dynamic*, *roar of the waves*, *rejuvenate*, *vigor*, and *vitality*.

My family lives in Richmond, California. Our city is so big. It has a beautiful bay. It also has many people, including immigrants from all over the

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world. But the city seems so quiet. There are no young people outside. When people come back from school or work, they stay indoors. They do something by themselves. I wish we had a way for people to play together outside. I wish it were not so hard to find a basketball court. Even when we find one, it is old and shabby. When we look around Marina Bay, we cannot find any area where we can play basketball, although it is a *relatively new* part of the community.

If Marina Bay had a basketball court, it would add a lot of value. Marina Bay would have a better environment. We would not only see the beautiful

beach, but we would also see the *dynamic* crowd. We would hear the *roar of the waves* accompanied by the cheers on the court. This would make the whole area jump!

Richmond is a growing town. We want to *rejuvenate* it. We need more laughter and cheer. We need Richmond to be full of *vigor* and *vitality*. We need more high quality basketball courts. I will send a letter to my city officials. I will tell them that we need more basketball courts.

I will ask my teacher in LEAP to help me write the letter.

AFTER YOU READ: According to the author, how would a basketball court improve her community? What ideas do you have about rejuvenating your community?

Jia Yang comes from China. She is a student at Literacy for Every Adult Program (LEAP) in Richmond, CA. She likes sports. She wants Richmond to be vibrant.



So You Want to Make a Change in Your Community?

Things you can do alone	Things you can do with others

Think of a change you would like to make in your community. Make a chart like the one above. Brainstorm a list of steps you could take alone and with others to bring about the change you desire. Which actions do you think would be most effective? Why?