

- **How does a baseball team decide to train players?**
- **Can an apprenticeship program work?**

Problem 1: The Training of Baseball Players

In the United States, major league baseball teams (like the Chicago Cubs) send scouts to local baseball games. The scouts' goal is to find young, talented baseball players whom the major league team can train. These trainees become players for the major league team's minor league (or farm) team. (Every major league team has a farm team.)

If these trainees are good enough to make it to the major league team, they are bound to the team that trained them for a period of six years. After that they can become free agents and play for whichever team they wish. Major league teams pay all the costs of, but receive no revenue from, their minor league teams.

1. The training that is provided by the farm team is general training. (It makes the baseball player more productive on other teams as well.) Normally, employers will not pay for general training. Why do you think major league teams are willing to pay for general training in this instance?
2. Use what you know about training to predict what would happen if players were allowed to become free agents immediately after entering the major leagues? Why?
3. Can you think of other cases where employers are willing to pay for general training?

Problem 2: Apprenticeships

The following article describes the system of youth apprenticeships that operate in Germany. The authors suggest that the German apprenticeship model could **not** be implemented in a similar way in the United States.

1. Based on your reading, do you believe a similar program of youth apprenticeships could be implemented in your home country? Why or why not?