

PROJECT: Boston's History of Racism Within Sports

Project Assignment: Your group is tasked with researching the history of one professional sports team in Boston. Specifically, your goal is to analyze the team's complex relationship with issues of race and racism.

Central Question: *Why does Boston, and particularly its professional sports teams, have a reputation of being racist? Is this reputation deserved in 2023, or is this simply an unfair label?*

You will be considering this question as you do research into ONE of Boston's professional sports teams and again at the end of the project when you hear from other groups about the team they researched.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT:

1. Your group will be assigned a specific team to research (Red Sox or Celtics)
2. Research the team's past and present relationship with race and racism:
 - a. As you begin researching, remember the more specific and thoughtful you can be with your search terms, the happier Google is. Take some of the names, incidents, topics you find in your initial search and add those to your list of keywords (for instance, if you were looking for info on the Red Sox, you might add "Yawkey Way" to your search terms.) You may want to search some of the following keywords:
 - "Team name" and racism
 - "Team name" and integration (or segregation)
 - b. Your notes on the team should include answers to the following questions:
 - Brief overview of the team's history, from creation to current day (founding year, championships, "greatest" players in team's history, etc.)
 - When did the league become racially integrated? AND When did the team become racially integrated?
 - What are some positive aspects/highlights of the team's history concerning race?
 - What are some negative aspects/lowlights of the team's history concerning race?
 1. You may want to consider (and support with detail) things like:
 - a. the timeline of when the team integrated,
 - b. how that process went, or
 - c. whether players or coaches on your team or other teams have ever reported being the victims, or targets, of racially charged comments, threats or actions by team employees, fans or community members.
 - How have the team's ownership and fanbase played a role (positive or negative) in the franchise's dealings with race?

- Does the current franchise fuel Boston's reputation as racist, or work to prove that reputation wrong?
3. Using your notes, your group will build a Google Slides presentation to share with the class.
- a. Your presentation should address the project's central question about Boston's relationship with race and racism through the lense of your assigned sports team.
 - b. You will be presenting to ½ the class for this assignment so think about how you can engage the group throughout. That may mean incorporating images or video or both to demonstrate what you're talking about, etc.
 - c. Each member of the group **MUST** take on some part of the presentation.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

- Each group member must have a voice in the presentation and their project responsibilities must be clearly identified.
- Your presentation should be approximately 5-10 minutes in length.
- Presentation matters!
 - Pictures & video are important when thoughtfully added. Every slide except for the works cited slide should have *at least* one image to partner with the text. (Shoot for a 30/70 or 40/60 ratio of images to text.)
 - Bullet text wherever you can (vs. large blocks or paragraphs of text)
 - Add titles to your slides to help cue and guide the audience
 - Font should be *at least* 18 pt or larger. Also just a reminder that light colors, fancy fonts and text laid over images can be hard to read.
- Strong evidence & detail is critical! Your presentation should incorporate cited evidence from at least 3 different sources within your presentation. (MLA parenthetical citations)
- Your presentation must end with a **works cited** slide.
 - If you don't know how to cite information with MLA parenthetical citations or build a proper MLA works cited page, just ask! (The library research page has links to 2 easy-to-use citation generators.)

Project Planning

1. Please introduce yourselves to one another, as you may not know each member of your group.
 - a. Be sure that your group has a way to connect and work together outside of class. While most of the work will be done during class time, you will need to complete some work on your own time. Everyone should have access to your group documents, slides, etc..
2. Divide and conquer - split the expected responsibilities of each group member.
 - a. Don't let anyone ride coattails! Group dynamics can be tough, but trust your teammates and make sure no one is just letting one or two people do all of the work.
 - b. Don't let someone take on all of the work, even if he/she/they want to.
 - c. Each member should take on an equal level of responsibility and then it is up to the group to pull together a quality final product and presentation
 - d. Each member's contributions must be identified in the presentation.
3. Spend time as individuals working on specific questions and aspects of the assignment. Gather as much quality detailed evidence from academic sources as you can.
4. Craft how you plan to explain and present your information in the slide.
5. Schedule time to come together and pull your project together and *practice* your presentation

Grading - 40 pt Project

Presentation

_____ 5 pts

- Visually appealing
- Quality flow
- Creative presentation

Evidence and Analysis

_____ 30 pts

- Team Historical background & integration (5pts)
- Positive history with regards to race/racism (7pts)
- Negative history with regards to race/racism (7pts)
- Role of ownership and fanbase (6pts)
- Current role and status with regards to race (5pts)

Conventions

_____ 2.5 pts

- Grammar
- Citations
- Works Cited

Individual Contribution

_____ 2.5 pts

- Team member took part in the group presentation
- Team member's work responsibilities and contributions are clearly identified in the presentation.

Total

_____ 40 pts