

Sport Research Paper – Topic Ideas

If you are interested in...

<u>Race & ethnicity</u>	<u>Sports & gender issues</u>	<u>Sports & politics/social issues</u>
<p>Nascar & southernization of American culture Role of sports in Americanizing immigrants Popularity of baseball in internment camps Jackie Robinson & the integration of baseball Rubin “Hurricane” Carter Negro baseball leagues Harlem Globetrotters The ABA/NBA merger Joe Louis & Max Schmeling (race/internat. conflict) Jack Johnson (1st black heavyweight champ) Race based metrics in NFL concussion protocols Race & hiring at management/ownership level (Rooney Rule, Brian Flores suit, etc.) Malice at the Palace & fan/player conflict Uniforms/dress code (NBA, etc.) Michael Jordan, athlete & businessman Bill Russell & civil rights activism The Cleveland Summit Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Allen Iverson (intersection of NBA/hip hop culture, image & role of media, etc.) Muhammad Ali Athletes & anti-vax campaigns (Kyrie Irving, Aaron Rodgers, etc.) Jim Thorpe Colin Kaepernick, BLM & the NFL Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf & anthem protest 1968 Olympic protest (Black Power Olympics) Jesse Owens & the Nazi Olympics Racism in soccer (US vs global)</p>	<p>Sports & gender issues Billie Jean King & the Battle of the Sexes All-American Girls’ baseball league Babe Didrickson Katherine Switzer & Boston Marathon Venus Williams (groundbreakers & gender norms) Serena Williams (double standards, body image, etc.) Yale women’s crew Simone Biles (mental health, branding, etc.) Larry Nassar & USA gymnastics WNBA (popularization of, gender equity, social justice, overseas play, etc) Sponsorships & maternity rights Nancy Kerrigan v. Tonya Harding (class conflict in skating) NWSL women’s soccer (equal pay fight, coaches & sexual harassment, contracts, etc.) Gender equity in the NCAA Professional sports opportunities for women (league growth/challenges, media, limitations, etc.) Title 9’s impact on... (K-12 institutions, participation, coaching, pro sports, etc.) Sexualization of female athletes (body shaming, uniforms, media, etc.) Culture around being openly gay in sports (variance by sport, by gender, by time) Tom Waddell & the Gay Games Legal rights for transgender athletes</p>	<p>Sports & politics/social issues Mascots (controversy, evolution of, representation of) Jack Scott, Bill Walton (sports/social activism) Pat Tillman & patriotism First Pitch - GW Bush post 9/11 pitch meaning Red Sox & the Boston Marathon bombing Role of sports in the Cold War (Miracle on Ice, Moscow/LA boycotts, etc.) Los Suns 1992 Dream Team Culture & handling of sexual abuse in... (gymnastics, hockey, women’s soccer, etc.) Pro sports leagues & political activism Modern athlete activism (Naomi Osaka, Megan Rapinoe, LeBron James, Hillary Knight, Ibtihaj Muhammad, Natasha Cloud, Maya Moore, Bubba Wallace, etc.) Athletes & the AIDS epidemic Daryl Morey & China/Tibet & NBA Male high school students playing on female teams (field hockey, volleyball) Use of sports to promote religious beliefs Sports talk radio & social issues (WEEI & local racism, Dennis & Callahan) Casey Martin & PGA (disability rights) Disability & sport (opportunities, sports, culture, media, equity issues, careers, etc.) Special Olympics or Paralympics (history, evolution, equity issues, media, etc.)</p>

Commercialization of sports

Stadiums (economics & politics, building of, modernization, etc.)

Super Bowl (advertising, origins, halftime show, etc.)

Marketing of athletes (endorsements, merchandising, branding of athletes, etc.)

Sports marketing industry (Gatorade, Nike, Jordan, athleisure, etc.)

Commercialization of the... (Olympics, intercollegiate sports, interscholastic sports)

Sports journalism & impact of tv/streaming/social media (ESPN, Monday Night Football, leagues' investment in social media, sports media personalities, etc.)

Sports awards (ESPYs, etc.)

Gender representation in media

Athlete-founded media companies (*The Undeclared*, *Players' Tribune*, 35Ventures, Togethxr, etc.)

Player contracts & unions (pro, student athlete)

College athletics (recruitment, unionization, education of, payment debate, NIL, etc.)

Impact of globalization on sports

Nike (rise of, marketing & evolution of Just Do it, Phil Knight, branded athletes, etc.)

Commercialization of Little League

Clothing (team uniforms, sneaker marketing, sports gear, athleisure, etc.)

Athletes Unlimited (new model in pro sports, etc.)

Overtime Elite (professionalization of athletes, model, power/agency of athletes v investors, etc.)

AAU (culture of, regulation, relationships with corporate/colleges/pro leagues, etc.)

Sports boosters

Fantasy sports or gambling (Black Sox, Pete Rose, Horse racing, Fantasy Leagues, DraftKings, FanDuel, etc.)

Impact/effect of salary caps, Moneyball approach in baseball, etc.

Miscellaneous

Rise of Esports

NCAA (amateurism, relationship with schools, championships, athletes, power, legislation, etc.)

Emergence of extreme sports

Role of technology in sport (imaging, stats, predictive modeling, etc.)

Sports in film (*Field of Dreams*, *Hoosiers*, *He Got Game*, *Miracle*, etc.) or TV (*All American*, *Friday Night Lights*, etc.)

Relationship between music & sports (athlete or team songs, relationships, Raiders/NWA, etc.)

Evolution of football (regulations, marketing, social class, emergence as America's sport, tailgating culture, relationship to Armed Forces, integration of, etc.)

Presidential Fitness Test (history, value of, etc.)

Sports science & biohacking

Youth sports (professionalization, specialization, culture of, parental involvement, training, infl. on school performance, delinquency, obesity, etc.)

Physical education in K-12 schools

Athletes as role models

Fitness & social media

Hall of Fame criteria & steroids

Athletes & the law (OJ, Michael Vick, Mike Tyson, response by prof leagues/teams, etc.)

Athletes turned politicians

Sports in the age of Coronavirus

PEDs, baseball & steroids

Opioid use in pro sports

Origins & evolution of NASCAR

Roller derby

WWE (truth v. fiction)

Concussions (football vs soccer, league policies, attempts to mitigate, brain science, technol., etc.)

Soccer (compare to global, what flaws exist in US system that limit its growth, gender equity)

Skateboarding (history, rise, culture, Olympics, etc.)