



Sports & Politics





Do professional athletes have a responsibility to be positive role models for young people?

Do you think that sports & politics should be kept separate?





In your opinion, is the act of playing the national anthem, flying the flag or engaging in other acts of patriotism political?

Patriotism post 9/11

The MLB restarted the week after 9/11. One of the reopening mandates was that "God Bless America" would become a regular part of games. Fans & players sang along and athletes embraced their role in the national recovery effort. Sporting events became much-needed places to cheer & mourn together.

Military flyovers, American flags covering entire fields, athletes wearing camouflage uniforms & caps that fans could buy online became a staple at games after 9/11. These patriotic symbols have since become a fixture of games at all levels.



Paid Patriotism?



- A 2015 Senate report revealed the Dept of Defense had made payments of nearly \$7 million in public money to the NFL and other leagues, for what the report called “paid patriotism.”
- What is “paid patriotism”?
 - On-field military swearing-in ceremonies, on-field events honoring veterans, performances of “God Bless America,” etc.

* NOTE: After an internal audit, the NFL paid back more than \$700,000 to the government. Congress banned paid patriotism in late 2015.

What do you think about athletes who are vocal about their opinions on political, economic or social issues?

Where/when are you ok with athletes using their platform to voice their opinions?



Some recent examples of outspoken athletes...



With the platform we have, we really wanted to show why this team is different and why we do things that are much bigger than just the game.

CATARINA MACARIO
on USWNT players wearing 'Protect Trans Kids' wristbands in SheBelieves Cup

Washington Mystics protest Jacob Blake's Killing by police

History of Social Activism In Sport



Not all
people think
athletes
should talk
politics...



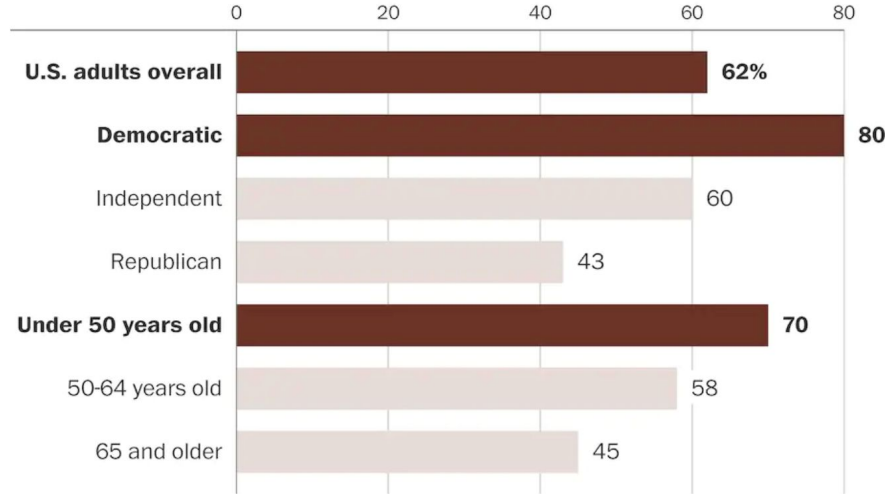
Should athletes speak out about causes
they believe in?

OR

Should they just butt out, keep their
opinions to themselves and stick to their
day jobs?

Over 6 in 10 Americans say professional athletes should use their platform to express their views

Q: In your opinion, should professional athletes use their platform to express their views on national issues, or should they not do this? (Percent saying “should express views”)

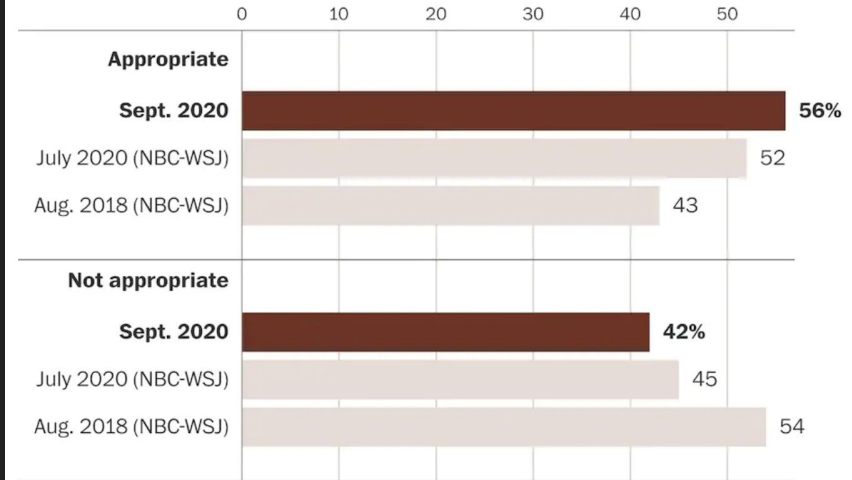


Note: “Should not express views” and “No opinion” not shown.

Source: Sept. 1-6, 2020, Washington Post poll of 1,001 U.S. adults with a margin of error of +/- 3.5 percentage points. Error margin larger among subgroups.

Growing share of Americans say it is appropriate for athletes to kneel during the national anthem to protest racial inequality

Q: When it comes to athletes kneeling during the national anthem to protest racial inequality in the United States, do you consider this to be an appropriate way or not an appropriate way to bring attention to these concerns?



Note: NBC-WSJ polls among registered voters, 2018 question wording “When it comes to professional football players...” No opinion not shown.

Source: Sept. 1-6, 2020, Washington Post poll of 1,001 U.S. adults with a margin of error of +/- 3.5 percentage points.

Public opinion has swung in the direction of SUPPORT for activism among athletes in recent years, with a noticeable upward trend since spring 2020.



- In 2016, Kaepernick took a knee & faced the wrath of NFL fans & the president.
- NFL owners ruled in 2018 that players could NOT kneel during the national anthem without leaving themselves open to punishment.
 - But the league also said athletes could stay in the locker room while it was being performed. They technically still have that rule but are not enforcing it.
- In Aug. 2020 NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said they WOULD NOT penalize players who protested.



Donald J. Trump  @realDonaldTrump · 24m

If a player wants the privilege of making millions of dollars in the NFL, or other leagues, he or she should not be allowed to disrespect...

 10K  7.2K  22K 



Donald J. Trump  @realDonaldTrump · 16m

...our Great American Flag (or Country) and should stand for the National Anthem. If not, YOU'RE FIRED. Find something else to do!

 8.8K  5.9K  18K 



What about at the
Olympics?

Should athletes be
allowed to make
political statements at
the Olympics?





- Prior to the 2020 Summer Olympics, 2 American athletes staged protests on the medal stand at the 2019 Pan Am Games.
- Both athletes were given 12 months of probation & a warning of harsher punishments in the future to any athletes who stage similar demonstrations.

Hammer thrower, Gwen Berry, raised her fist after her win to call out injustice in America “and a president who’s making it worse.”

She later said, “It’s too important to not say something. Something has to be said. If nothing is said, nothing will be done and nothing will be fixed and nothing will be changed.”



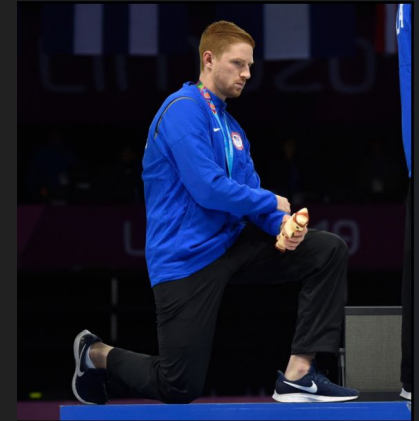
Race Imboden 
@Race_Imboden



We must call for change.

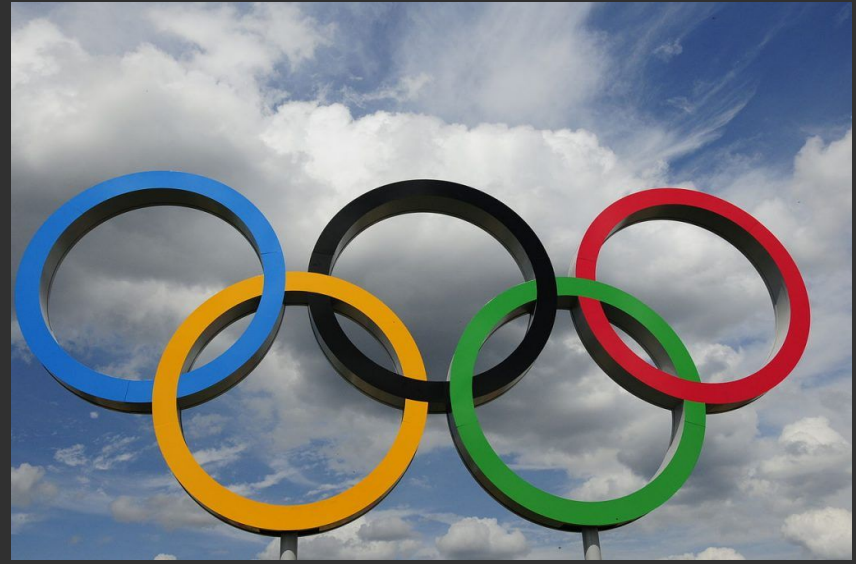
This week I am honored to represent Team USA at the Pan Am Games, taking home Gold and Bronze. My pride however has been cut short by the multiple shortcomings of the country I hold so dear to my heart. Racism, Gun Control, mistreatment of immigrants,

Fencer, Race Imboden, took a knee and tweeted the statement above:





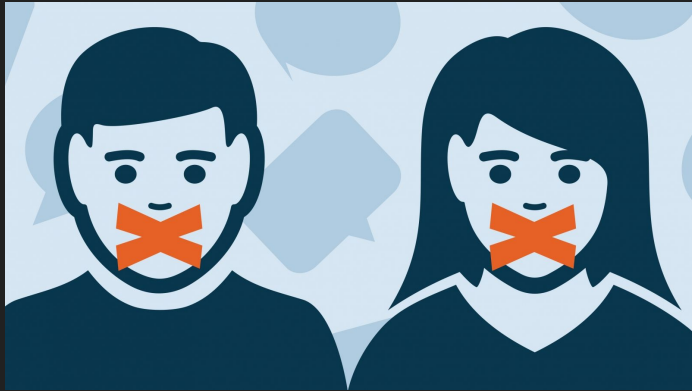
According to the IOC,
“When an individual makes their grievances, however legitimate, more important than the feelings of their competitors and the competition itself, the unity and harmony as well as the celebration of sport and human accomplishment are diminished.”



What do you think? Do you agree that the “unity & harmony” of the Olympics are diminished by protest?

In advance of the 2020 summer Olympics, the IOC stated that, “**No kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in any Olympic sites, venues or other areas.**” Protests include “displaying any political messaging, including signs or armbands” along with “gestures of a political nature,” such as kneeling.

(Athletes were permitted to express their opinion on social media, outside the Olympic village and in interviews.)

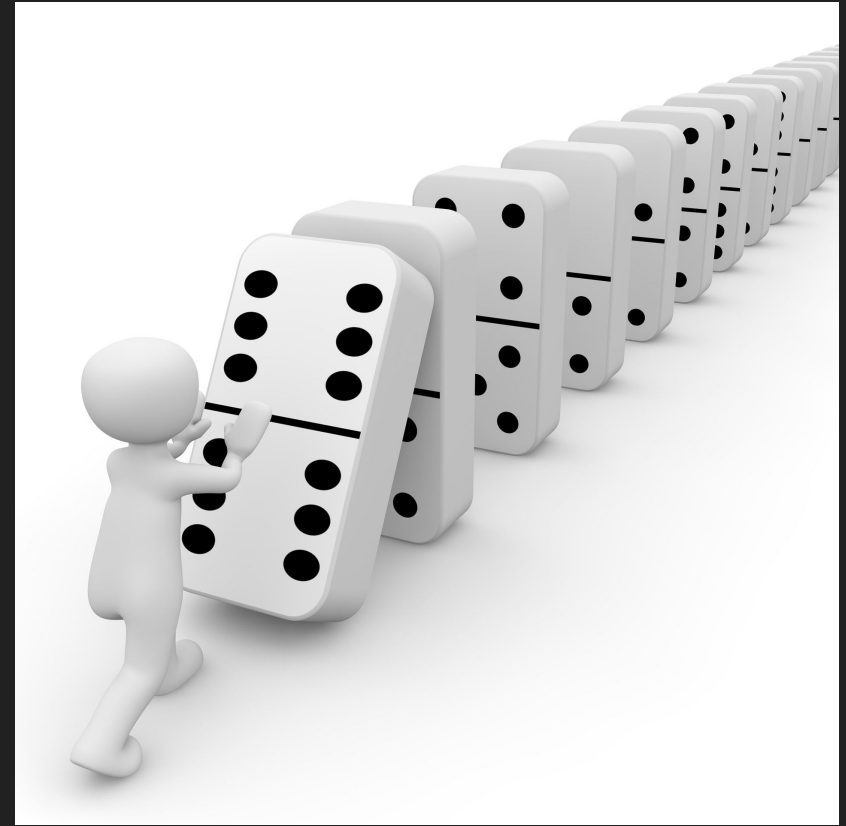


What do you think of this ban? Fair? Unfair?

Should teams / employers be able to set rules to prevent athletes from making political statements while representing the team?



Do you think that
when a professional
athlete takes a public
stand on an issue it
has a measurable
impact on that issue?





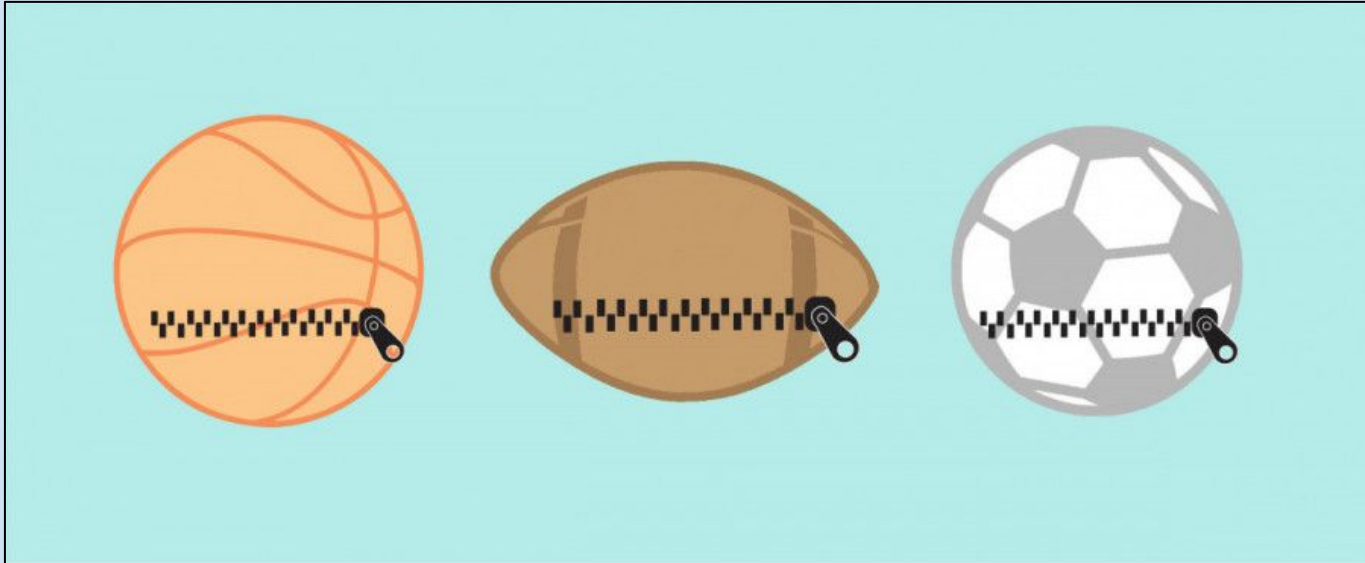
Should athletes
give back to the
communities in
which they play
and earn a
living?

Lebron James' "I Promise" School in Akron, Ohio.

FOCUS FOR THE UNIT AHEAD

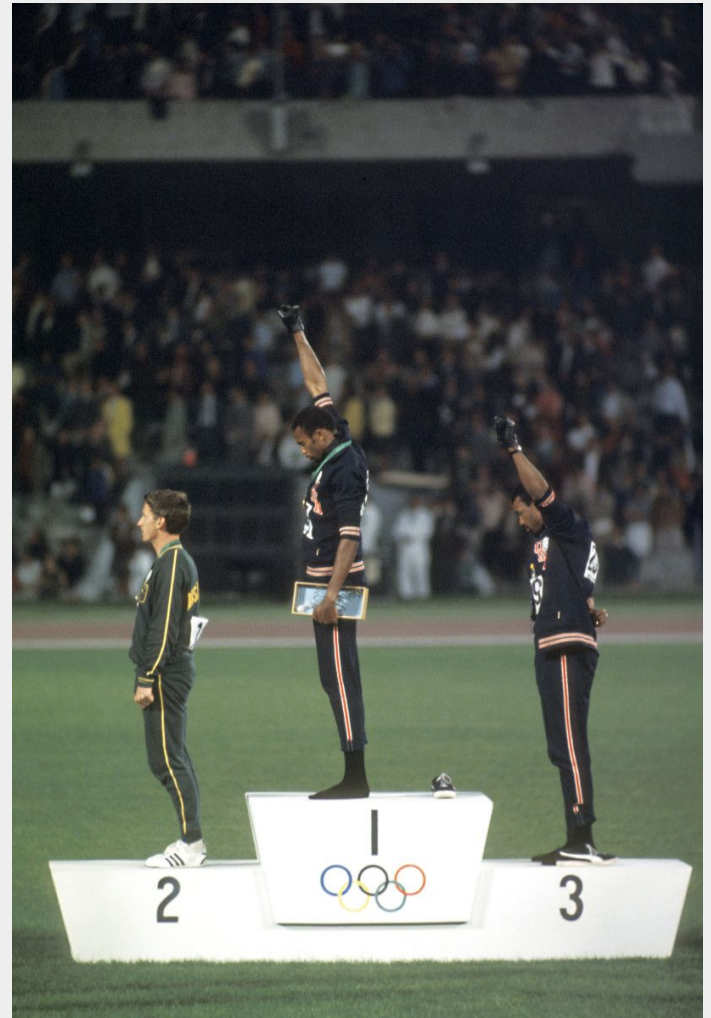
- ❑ Do politics have a place in sports?
- ❑ Sports are in many ways a reflection of social/political issues & divisions. How are activist athletes & teams symbolic of those issues & divisions?
- ❑ What is the impact of athletes who use their platform as a mechanism through which to improve society?

“If you ever thought sports were separate from politics, think again”



John Carlos & Tommie Smith's 1968 Olympic protest

Political & social protest
at the Games



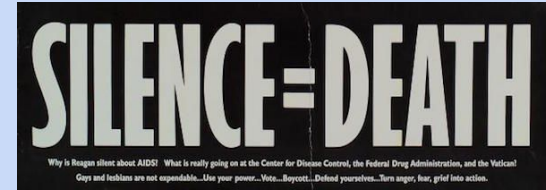
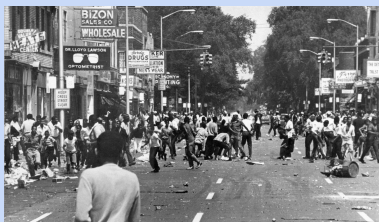
Historical Context

Modern Civil Rights Movement

- Martin Luther King v. Malcolm X - question of goals & methods
- Rise of the Black Panther Party
- Riots in northern cities (Detroit, Newark, Chicago, etc.)

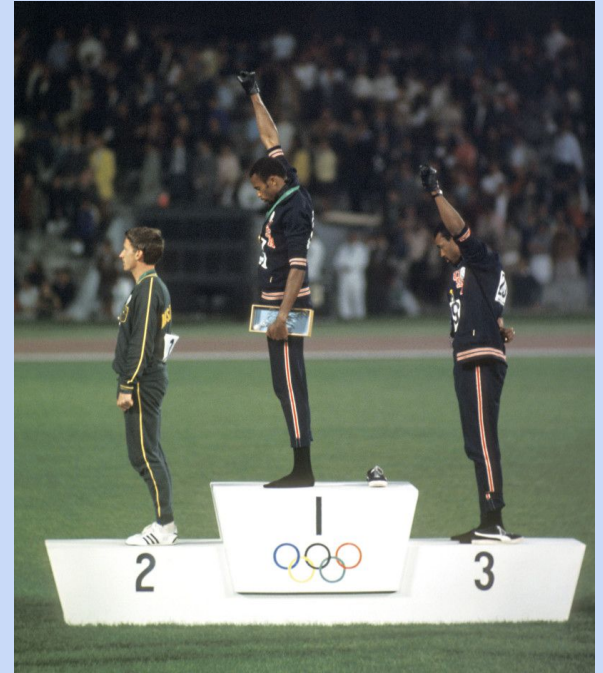
Vietnam War & growing anti-war & student protests

- Disproportionate # of black, brown and poor men being drafted



PREVIEW: Film Questions

1. What were some of the issues the Olympic Project for Human Rights was responding to?
2. What did Jackie Robinson and Kenny Washington's work to integrate sports in the 1940s have to do with the decision by black athletes to protest in the 1960s?
3. What was the symbolism of the various elements of Carlos and Smith's protest on the medal stand?
4. What repercussions did Smith & Carlos face after their protest?



“The Story Behind this iconic Olympics protest,” Vox

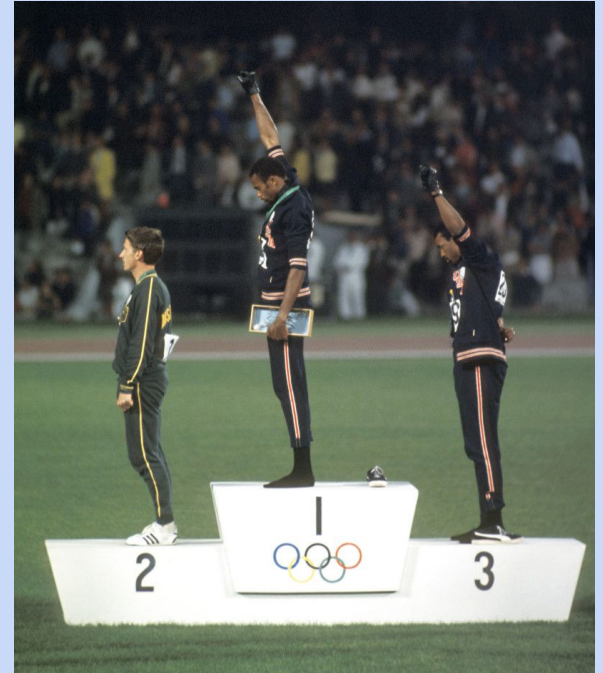


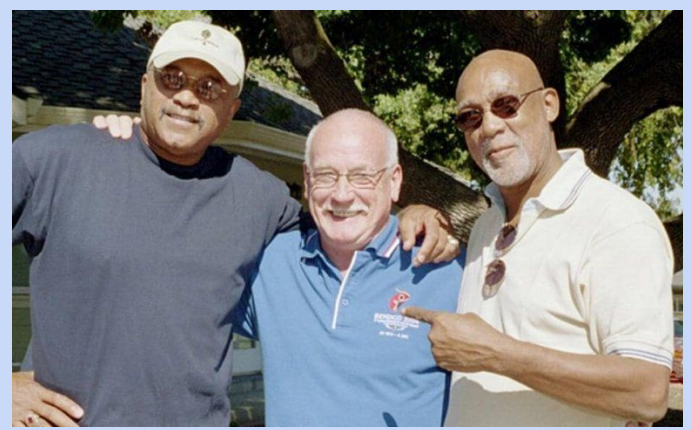
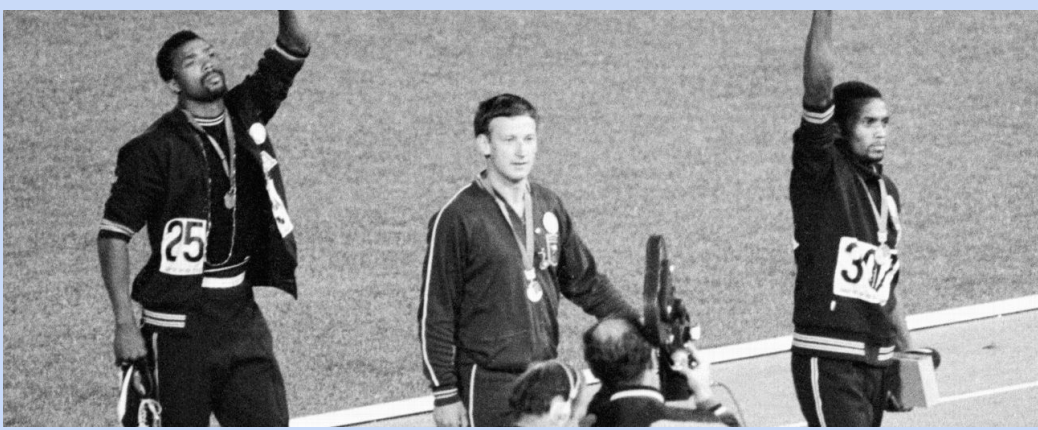
“The Story Behind this iconic Olympics protest,” Vox



REVIEW: Film Questions

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Peter Norman, the 2nd place Australian runner, supported Carlos & Smith in their protest. Norman also sported an Olympic Project for Human Rights button on the medals stand.

Norman said, “I always had my views on racial tolerance. I couldn’t see why anyone would dislike or hate someone simply because they were a different colour. It wasn’t a matter of *colour*. You liked someone because you liked them.” Norman, Carlos & Smith remained friends until Norman’s death in 2006.

Norman also faced consequences for standing by Carlos & Smith.

- He was passed over for the 1972 Olympics team and awarded 2nd place in the qualifying event in spite of what most agreed was a win.
- He was not invited to the 2000 Sydney Olympics by the Australian Olympic Committee and instead was invited as a guest by the US Olympic Committee.

What do you think about Tommie Smith & John Carlos' Olympic protest? Do you support that kind of political action by athletes on the medal stand? Why or why not?



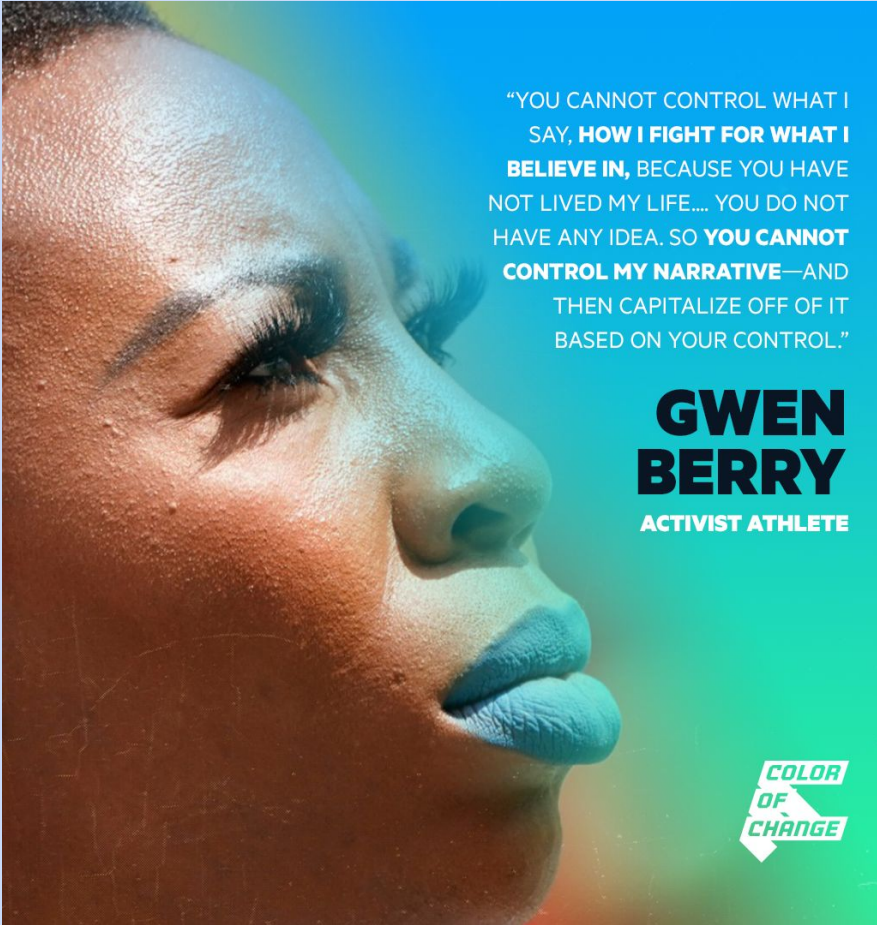
A collage of three images. On the left, a black and white photo of a woman at a protest with her fist raised, wearing a white face mask. In the center, a color portrait of a woman with long dark hair and a grey headband. On the right, a black and white photo of an athlete in a dark uniform with the number 17, celebrating with one arm raised.

T

OPINION



“Why The
Olympics
Punished Me
For Protesting,”
NYT Opinion



“YOU CANNOT CONTROL WHAT I SAY, **HOW I FIGHT FOR WHAT I BELIEVE IN**, BECAUSE YOU HAVE NOT LIVED MY LIFE.... YOU DO NOT HAVE ANY IDEA. SO **YOU CANNOT CONTROL MY NARRATIVE**—AND THEN CAPITALIZE OFF OF IT BASED ON YOUR CONTROL.”

**GWEN
BERRY**
ACTIVIST ATHLETE



What do you think of Berry’s argument that protest should be an option for athletes at the Olympics?

Olympic goals & mission

- The modern Olympics began in 1896 in Athens, Greece.
- The fundamental idea is to use sports to foster humanism & promote brotherhood among peoples of the world



"The goal of Olympism is to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of man, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity."

Fundamental Principles of Olympism, Olympic Charter

- Principle of non-discrimination: In Olympic sport, everyone is equal, regardless of their background, nationality, gender, social status or beliefs.
- In a globalized world, sport has the power to bring people together.
 - The Olympics sets an example of peaceful global interaction.
 - In the Village, athletes from all 200+ teams live in harmony under one roof and without discrimination. The athletes live alongside each other, share stories & experiences, share meals and model unity.



The Olympic flag, with the 5 interlaced rings, was adopted in 1914. The rings represent the union of 5 continents & meeting of athletes from all over the world at the Games.



Sport is one of the few areas governed by universal laws. Regardless of where in the world you play & practice, the rules of play are the same; the 100m is always a 100m run. The rules are recognized globally.



A conflict of interest?

If one of the overarching goals of the Olympics is to promote peace and unity, where do politics fit, if at all?



Do politics have a place at the Games?

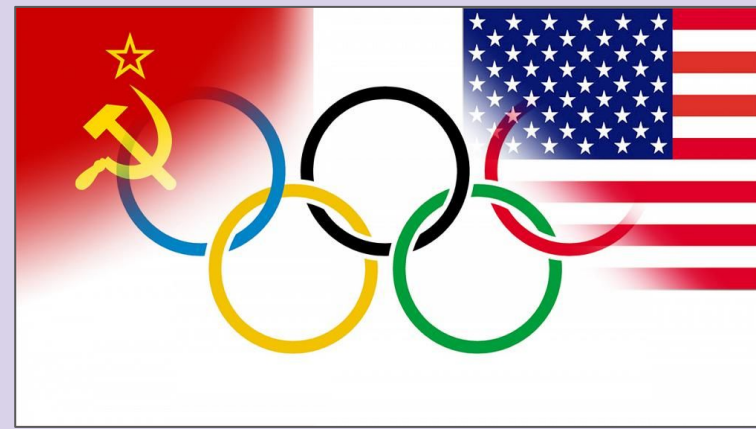
If you were the president of the United States and the Olympic Games were to be held in Russia this year, would you send our athletes to the Games?



Are the Olympics ever fully devoid of politics?



- During the lead up to WWII, the Olympics was seen as an opportunity to foster patriotism & national unity.
 - The Olympics were in many ways an extension of political rivalries between nations.



- During the Cold War, sports were used as a weapon of international affairs.
 - The Olympics = the chance to display superiority through their athletes
- Both the US/Soviets attempted to manipulate international politics while also instilling a feeling of national pride among its citizens.



Jesse Owens, “the fastest human being,” won 4 gold medals & became the hero of the Olympics.

1936 Summer Olympics (Berlin, Germany)

- Hitler hoped to
 - prove to rest of the world that the Aryan race & Germany was the master race
 - display Nazi greatness & the re-emergence of Germany as world power
- His plan was derailed by the American team.
 - The US sent 18 African-American athletes. Including Jesse Owens, they won 14 medals — 8 of them gold. (That was a quarter of the 56 medals won by the entire U.S. team.)
 - Most of these black athletes competed in track & field events where they swept high jump, won gold in the 4x100m, 100m, 200m, 400m, & 800m. The US also won silver in the 100m & 200m.

"My only objective was any time I got into a race was to win. And that's what I did. Determination. That's what it takes. Light a fire in the stomach. I was winning for me and I was winning for the country. Me first, then the country.

It was very definitely a special feeling in winning the gold medal and being a black man. We destroyed his [Hitler's] master race theory, whenever we start winning those gold medals. So I was very proud of that achievement and I was very happy, for myself as an individual, for my race, and for my country."

- John Woodruff, speaking about his experiences



"There was very definitely a special feeling in winning the gold medal and being a black man," Woodruff said. "We destroyed his master-race theory whenever we [started] winning those gold medals."

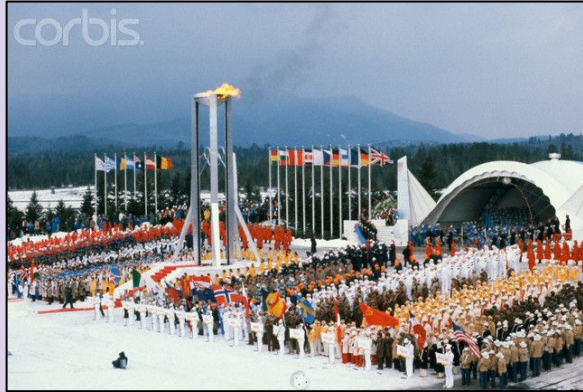


Is the Berlin Olympics an example of politics infusing Olympic sports?

1980 Olympics*

Winter Olympics (Lake Placid, NY)

Summer Olympics (Moscow, Russia)



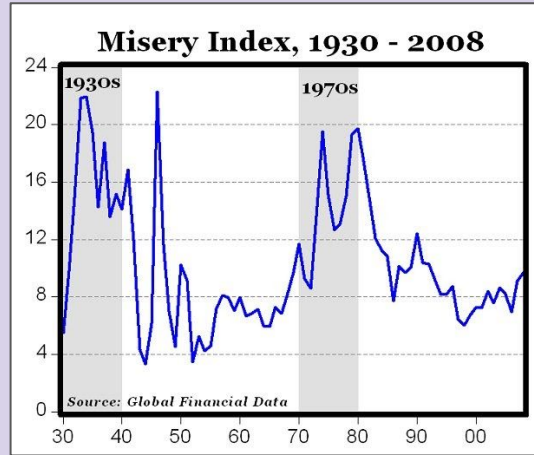
* Up until 1992, the winter & summer Olympics were held in the same year.



Some thought the Soviets would boycott the 1980 winter Olympics because of international tension with the U.S. over the boycott of the summer games in Moscow.

In 1980, the US led a boycott of the Summer Olympic Games in Moscow to protest the late 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The lead up to the 1980 Olympic Games



- The US was struggling in 1970s:
 - Unable to negotiate the safe return of American hostages held in Iran
 - Economy was struggling due to rising prices, high inflation & unemployment
 - Rising gas prices because of an oil embargo placed on the US by Middle Eastern countries
- Many Americans worried the US was in decline & had lost its superpower status. The Games were a chance to redeem ourselves.
- Soviets, on the other hand, hoped to use the Games as a way to show Soviet superiority...

Soviet preparation for the Games

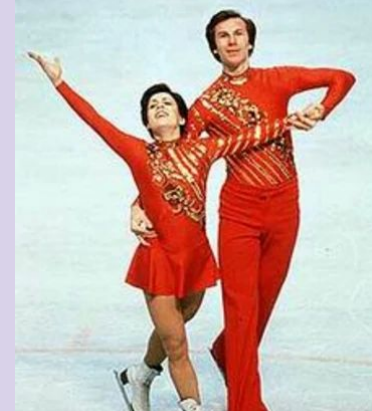
- The Soviets viewed sports as a political weapon. Since participating in their first modern Olympics in 1952, the Soviets had won 683 medals in the Summer Games and 118 medals in the Winter Games - more than any nation in that period (US was 2nd.)
- Fitness was “virtually a state religion & millions of citizens take part in an elaborate system of athletic instruction and awards.”
 - State organized sports from nursery school up.
 - Starting at age 7, school children participated in two 45-minute phys ed classes weekly.
 - By age 10-11, students who showed promise attended one of 5,000 “junior sports schools.”
 - The most skilled athletes graduated to an Olympic reserve school which was where the national team was typically selected from.
 - National physical tests were given to citizens annually aged 10-60.
 - To earn a gold badge in the Strength & Courage (16-18 year old) category, they must be able to do 12 chin-ups & toss a grenade 40 meters.



- Top Soviet athletes were often also drafted into the army specifically to train/play on service sports teams.
- The best Soviet athletes were treated as pseudo professionals with a salary paid by the state & a standard of living on par with a successful factory manager.
- Stories of doping were widespread but hard to prove. Many Soviet athletes who defected to the West shared tales of an elaborate state-facilitated doping program but it wasn't until later that some of these allegations were revealed to be true. (doping exposed in 1983 & again 2014)



Vladimir Yashchenko, 21, a high jumper training for the 1980 Olympics was given a stipend of \$400 from the govt.



Irina Rodnina & Alexander Zaitsev, the 1980 winter Olympic champion figure-skating pair, were given a 2 bedroom apartment in downtown Moscow.



The Soviets had won *every* Winter Olympic ice hockey tournament since 1960.

- Olympics were still amateur only, but the Soviets enlisted their players in the Russian army & had them focus on hockey exclusively.
 - The team therefore was made up of vets who'd played together for years while the U.S. team was made up of college kids with little history of playing together.
- The Soviet team defeated a team of NHL All-Stars 6-0 in the Challenge Cup the year prior. And in an exhibition prior to the Olympics, US team lost to Soviets 10-3.

1980 Winter Olympics (Lake Placid, NY)







- The amateur U.S. team defeated the highly favored Soviet team 4-3.
- Regarded as one of the greatest moments in the history of American sports.

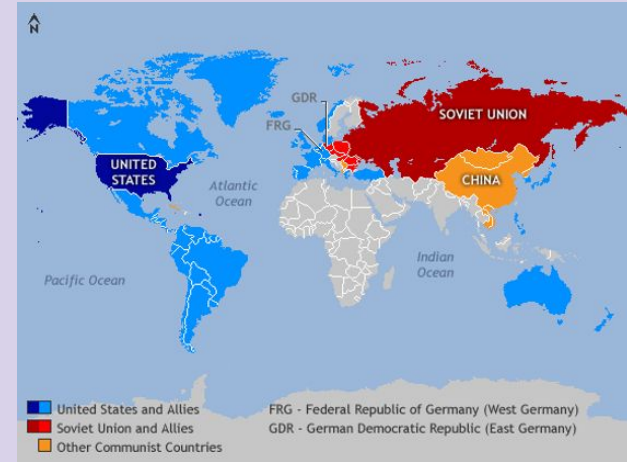


Is the Lake Placid Olympics an example of politics infusing Olympic sports?



Moscow Olympics (summer 1980)

- The 1980 Summer Games were the 1st Olympics held by a communist country.
- Many western countries like the US & England believed that the USSR violated people rights and therefore should not be granted the privilege of hosting the Olympics.
- In 1979 the USSR invaded Afghanistan to support a Marxist (communist) government,
not the US-backed government.
 - The US condemned the Soviet invasion.
 - President Carter established an embargo & said that the upcoming Olympics in Moscow should be postponed, moved to another country or boycotted.)



Was it right
decision for the US
to boycott the
Olympics in
Moscow?



BOYCOTT

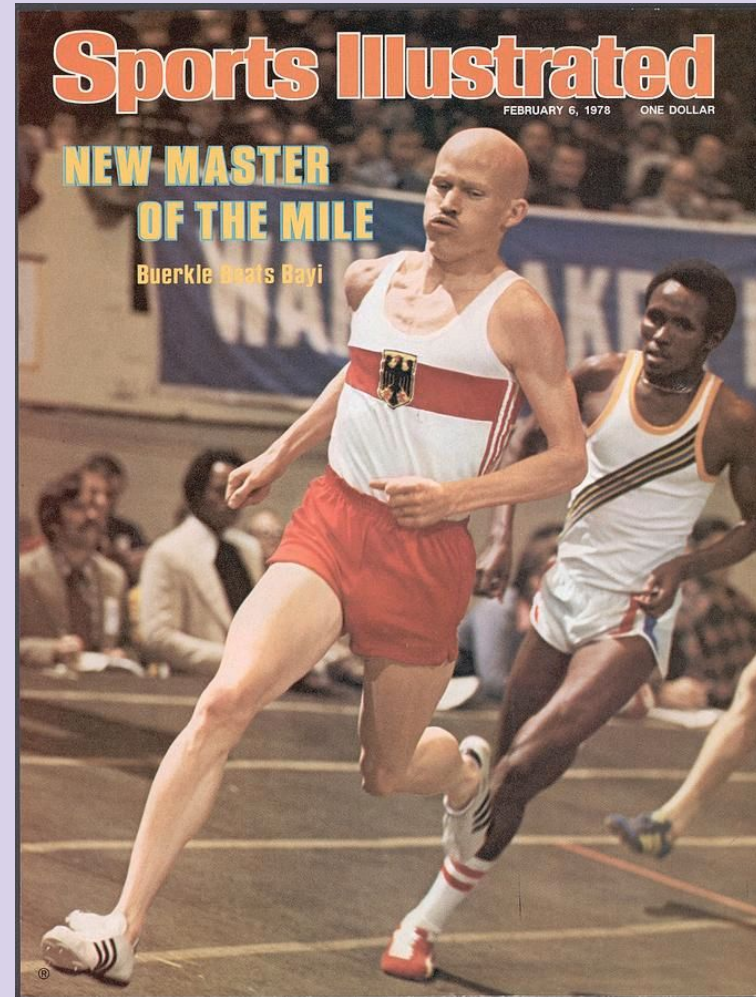
Directions:

1. Read the [attached YES/NO sources](#)
2. Fill out the chart at the bottom of the sources.
3. Discuss as a group which side you agree with.



"At the time, I was really angry, but ... looking back, it beats sending 18-year-olds over there with guns. It was something [Carter] could do."

- Dick Buerkle, a U.S. long distance runner who had qualified for the Olympics





Modern
Athlete
Activism -
A new
norm?



Shut Up & Dribble
(documentary)

Shut Up & Dribble Reflection

The documentary is called *Shut Up & Dribble*, which is exactly what FOX News host Laura Ingraham told LeBron and other outspoken players to do in 2018. The film is LeBron James' way of responding to Ingraham's claim that players are paid to play ball, not run off at the mouth.

Taking LeBron's position for a minute, how could you make the case that for much of the NBA's history, players have always done more than just dribble a basketball?

What about the WNBA?

- Months before Kaepernick kneeled and NBA players like LeBron spoke out against racism & gun violence, the WNBA was engaging in activism.
- What are some examples of their activism?
 - kneeling, walkouts &/or staying in the locker room during the anthem
 - wore BLM T-shirts during pre-game warm-ups with the names of Philando Castile & Alton Sterling
 - held press conferences in the wake of police shootings
 - been consistently outspoken on the issues even in the face of league fines, police walkouts, and relative media apathy as compared to their male counterparts.



An up close look at the warm-up shirts #LosLynx are wearing to honor #AltonSterling #PhilandoCastile & #DallasPD



6:58 PM · Jul 9, 2016 from Minneapolis



"There comes a time when silence is betrayal" - MLK @wnba

#WewillNOTbesilenced
#Blacklivesmatter



7:25 PM · Jul 22, 2016

What makes the WNBA protests noteworthy?

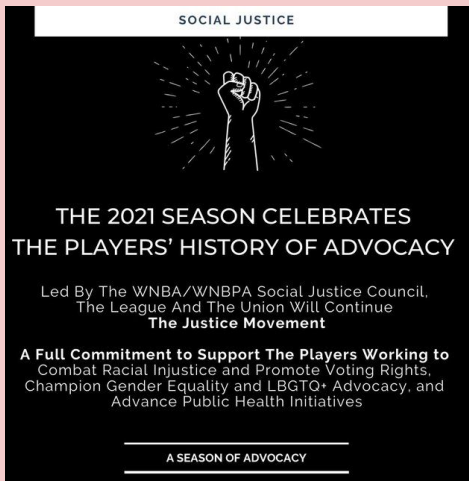


- WNBA players have consistently been on the forefront of activism, even without the media attention and support their male counterparts have.
- Both the players and ownership have engaged in activism.
- Not just players who have a personal connection to issues of police brutality who have been involved.
 - 80% of the league's players are black but white players & international players have consistently stood alongside African-American players in protest (not the case in the NBA or NFL.)

WNBA owners' activism



- In 2017, the Seattle Storm's all-female ownership group partnered with Planned Parenthood for the season. (The reproductive health-care provider was under fire politically from conservatives.)
 - Team raised \$ for the group thru donations from ticket sales & rallies.
 - One fundraiser brought in more than \$40,000 in one fell swoop.
- In 2016, the New York Liberty established an annual Unity Day game to support players' passion for social justice & community work.
- In 2020, the league & players' union formed a WNBA Social Justice Council dedicated to holding conversations about voting, girls & women killed by the police, increasing support for black-owned & female-owned businesses, and other things.



- The league devoted their 2020 season to Breonna Taylor. Players wore #SayHerName on their practice jerseys & “Black Lives Matter” was written on the court.
 - WNBA Commissioner: “The WNBA is based on the principle of equal and fair treatment of all people and we, along with the teams and players, will continue to use our platforms to vigorously advocate for social justice.”
- Atlanta Dream co-owner and GA senator, Kelly Loeffler, opposed the league’s support for the players’ social justice work.

ON POLITICS & BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT

Letter to WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert

“The truth is, we need less -- not more politics in sports. In a time when polarizing politics is as divisive as ever, sports has the power to be a unifying antidote. And now more than ever, we should be united in our goal to remove politics from sports.



KELLY LOEFFLER
DREAM CO-OWNER

“The lives of each and every African American matter, and there’s no debating the fact that there is no place for racism in our country. However, I adamantly oppose the Black Lives Matter political movement.”

The WNBA vs. Kelly Loeffler

- In response, players for the Atlanta Dream campaigned for Raphael Warnock, who was running for Loeffler's seat.
 - Players participated in video conferences with the Democratic candidate and wore shirts that read "Vote Warnock" to amplify the candidate's platform and send a message to Loeffler.
- The election ended without either candidate winning the required 50% which sent them to a run-off. Warnock ultimately won the seat.



Sports Activism Project



10 pts notes
25 pts project
5 pts presentation

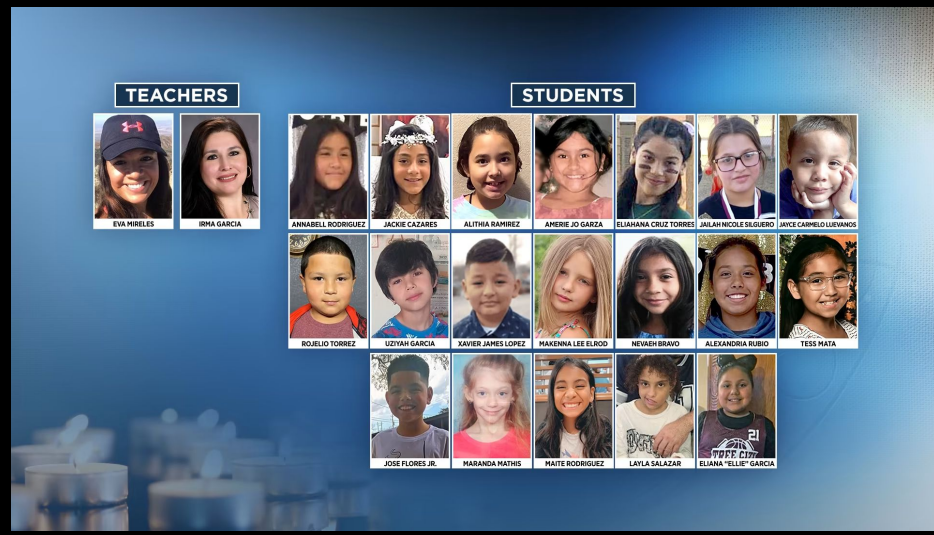
In recent years, more and more athletes have been speaking out about politics and social issues. In some cases, they are picking up where players before them left off and in other cases, they are fighting for new forms of social, political and economic change.

As part of our look at politics and sports, you're going to pick one athlete/team who was impactful or influential in some way and create a slideshow highlighting the athlete(s) and their actions. You will present your slideshow to the class.

Select an athlete from the list below (or propose an alternative):

- Katherine Switzer (distance running, women's sports)
- Jackie Robinson (integration of MLB)
- Colin Kaepernick (Take a knee, racism/police)
- Curt Flood (MLB, free agency)
- Phoenix Suns' (2010 Los Suns)
- Jim Brown (NFL, Black Economic Union)
- Bill Russell (NBA, racial quotas)
- Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (basketball, equality, race)
- Brandon Marshall (mental health)
- Jason Collins (NBA, LGBTQ)
- Billie Jean King (tennis, gender equity)
- Serena or Venus Williams (tennis, gender equity in pay, standards, etc.)
- Craig Hodges (NBA, '90s racism, urban issues)
- Carlos Delgado (MLB, Iraq War)
- Arthur Ashe (tennis, apartheid/race)
- Tom Waddell (1968 Olympic decathlete, LGBT)
- Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf (silent prayer)
- Ibtihaj Muhammad (fencing, Muslim-American rights)
- Rudy Galindo (skating, LGBTQ rights)
- Brittney Griner (WNBA, LGBTQ rights)
- Bubba Wallace (Nascar, Confed. flag)
- Maya Moore (WNBA, criminal justice)
- Pat Tillman (NFL, enlistment)
- Althea Gibson (tennis, race)
- Roberto Clemente (baseball, humanitarian)
- Michael Sam (football, LGBTQ)
- Ann Myers Drysdale (basketball, gender)
- Dan Rooney (FB coach, race)
- Shawn Green (MLB, Yom Kippur protest)
- The Syracuse 8 (football, racial discrimination)
- Women's gymnastics (class action)
- Tim Tebow (NFL, faith)
- Green Bay Packers (WI labor disputes)
- Brendon Ayanbadejo & Scott Fujita (LGBT marriage equality)
- Former NFL players (concussions)
- US women's track national team (maternity rights)
- Naomi Osaka (mental health, BLM & anti-Asian hate)
- Dwayne Wade (trans rights, gun laws)
- Enes Canter Freedom (human rights)
- Brian Flores (racism in NFL hiring)

We've seen both individual reactions & broader social commentary in sports in the wake of recent mass shootings in Buffalo, NY & Uvalde, TX.





Steve Kerr,
on gun
violence

Steve Kerr & activism

Kerr's father was a political science professor at the American University of Beirut until he was shot in 1984. Kerr has spoken about the personal experiences that guide his activism:



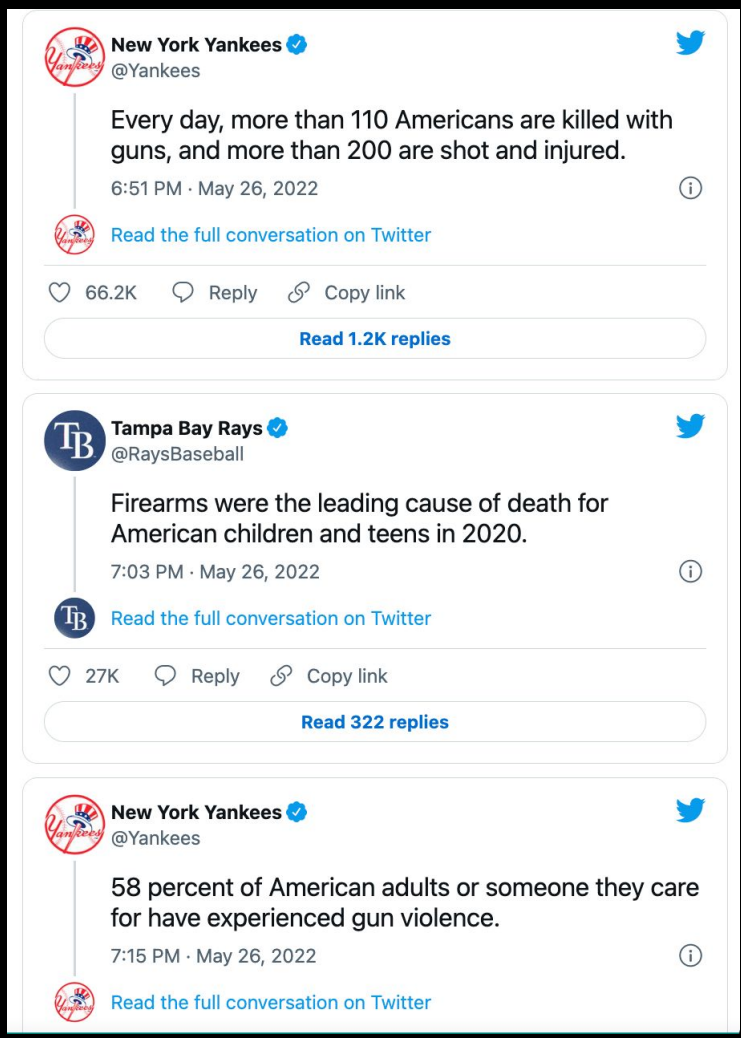
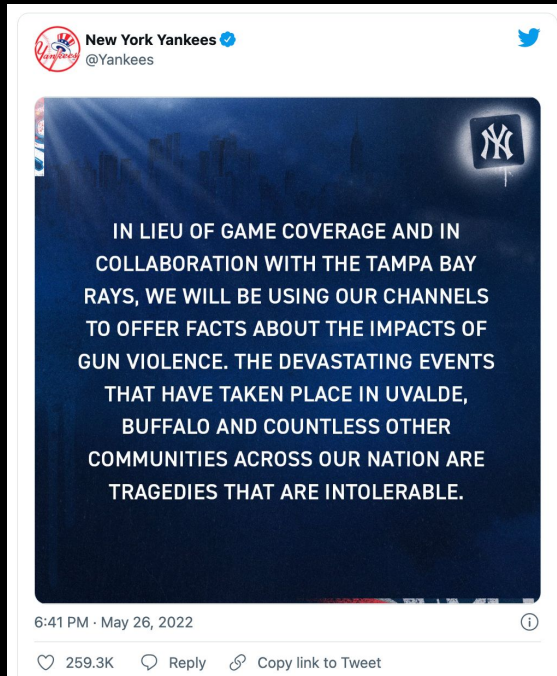
“Probably my number one social cause is gun safety and gun control. A lot of that has to do with losing my dad to gun violence,” Kerr said. “And a lot of that has to do with growing up here watching all of the violence, watching all of the school shootings, reading about them and knowing what all of those poor families are dealing with, because I went through the same thing with my family.”

When asked about the role of athletes in political discourse Kerr said, *“As American citizens, they have the right to speak and say whatever they like. And then there are consequences to that, but they have a big powerful platform and if they decide to use it, that’s well within their rights.”*



Gabe Kapler,
anthem
protest

Yankees & Tampa Bay use Twitter accounts to promote info about gun violence





Tampa Bay Rays ✓
@RaysBaseball



An average of 4,500 veterans die by firearm suicide every year - about 12 veterans each day.

7:28 PM · May 26, 2022



[Read the full conversation on Twitter](#)

12.2K Reply Copy link

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New York Yankees ✓
@Yankees



Every three hours, a young Black man dies by gun homicide.

7:38 PM · May 26, 2022



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85.7K Reply Copy link

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Tampa Bay Rays ✓
@RaysBaseball



Each year, more than 4,100 Latinx people die from gun violence in the U.S. and 13,300 are shot and wounded.

7:53 PM · May 26, 2022



New York Yankees ✓
@Yankees



About 4.5 million women in the US today report having been threatened with a gun by an intimate partner.

8:20 PM · May 26, 2022



[Read the full conversation on Twitter](#)

85.6K Reply Copy link

[Read 2K replies](#)



Tampa Bay Rays ✓
@RaysBaseball



Access to a gun triples the risk of death by suicide.

8:48 PM · May 26, 2022



[Read the full conversation on Twitter](#)

28.9K Reply Copy link

[Read 305 replies](#)



New York Yankees ✓
@Yankees



When an assault weapon is used in a mass shooting, it results in six times as many people shot than when other guns are used.

9:29 PM · May 26, 2022



Closing reflection

1. CHOOSE ONE:

- a. One of the readings we did early in the unit suggested that “sports have never been wholly separated from politics, from race, from gender, from business, from society.” Provide 2 examples from the unit & explain how they support the statement.
- b. Sports are in many ways a reflection of social/political issues and divisions. Choose 2 political/social issues & explain how they show up in sports.

2. CHOOSE ONE:

- a. Is there a place for politics in sports? Explain your thinking.
- b. What do YOU think about athletes/coaches/teams who are vocal about their opinions on political, economic or social issues? Should they be able to use their platform to share their opinions? Explain and support your thinking.