

## Sports & Protest Project

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 who was impactful or influential in some way and create a slideshow highlighting the athlete and their actions.



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

- Jackie Robinson (integration of MLB)
- Billie Jean King (tennis, Title IX)
- Tommie Smith & Jon Carlos (track, 1968 Olympics)
- Colin Kaepernick (Take a knee)
- Curt Flood (MLB, free agency)
- Serena & Venus Williams (tennis, gender inequity)
- Phoenix Suns' (2010 Los Suns)
- Jim Brown (NFL, Black Economic Union)
- Bill Russell (NBA, racial quotas)
- Brandon Marshall (mental health)
- Jason Collins (NBA, LGBTQ)
- Craig Hodges (NBA, '90s racism, urban issues)
- Carlos Delgado (MLB, Iraq War)
- Women's soccer (pay equity)
- Arthur Ashe (tennis, apartheid/race)
- Tom Waddell (1968 Olympic decathlete, LGBT)
- Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf (silent prayer)
- Brittney Griner (WNBA, LGBTQ rights)
- Maya Moore (WNBA, criminal justice)
- Pat Tillman (NFL, enlistment)
- Shawn Green (MLB, Yom Kippur protest)
- 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)
- Yale women's rowers (Title IX)
- US women's track national team (maternity rights)

**Step 1: RESEARCH** your assigned sports figure. (20 points)

RESEARCH QUESTIONS you should be able to answer:

1. = **Background (athlete & issue):**
  - a. Who are they and what were they famous for? (Sports fame, teams played on, years of play, accomplishments, etc.)
  - b. Details on the issue(s) they were focused on. What was their issue?
2. = **Connection to the time:**
  - a. What was happening at the time in the US?
    - i. (Make sure it relates to them... for instance, if they were a black man in the 1950s, you might talk about how the US was segregated and racism was an issue.)
  - b. What made them get involved in this issue? What made them feel personally connected to the issue?
    - i. (For instance, if they're gay and speaking out for LGBT issues in the 1990s, the national ban on gay marriage and various anti-gay laws might be something they personally experience and feel compelled to speak out against.)
3. = **Actions:**
  - a. What did they do to protest/raise attention for their issue? Consider how their actions were connected to the issue. (i.e., NFL players entering the stadium with hands raised in a don't shoot position was a symbolic and direct response to police shootings of unarmed black men.)
4. = **Influence/impact:**
  - a. How did fans, players and the league respond to their protest?
    - i. Consider how the athlete was viewed BEFORE / AFTER their protest. Were people supportive? If not, what penalty did they face for their protest?
  - b. What impact did the athlete have on the issue they were protesting?
5. = **Legacy:**
  - a. What was their legacy or lasting impact? (How do people remember them today? How did they change things for people who came after them?)

SOURCES: You must use 3 sources. Good resources to consider: ESPN, Sports Illustrated, The Players' Tribune, Deadspin, LS databases (Biography in Context, Pop Culture Universe, U.S. History in Context.) **Keep track of your sources when you are researching!**

**Step 2: Create a Google slideshow presentation** & share it with Ms. Shen. (40 points)

Your slideshow should include the following info:

- = **Slide 1: title slide** (athlete's name & include at least 1 picture)
- = **Slide 2-3: background on the athlete/issue**
  - (slide 2) 1A Who are they and what were they famous for? (background on career, accomplishments) (Include a short video clip showing them in action doing their sport)
  - (slide 3) 1B details on the issue (Include at least 1 picture)
- = **Slide 4-5: connection to the time** (Include at least 1 picture)
  - (slide 4) 2A What was happening at the time in the US? (Include 2-3 pictures)
  - (slide 5) 2B Athlete's connection to this issue (Include at least 1 picture)
- = **Slide 6: athlete's actions**
  - 3A What did they do to protest/raise attention for their issue? (Include a picture or, if possible, a short video clip showing them protesting.)
- = **Slide 7-8: athlete's influence/impact**
  - (slide 7) How did fans, players and the league respond to their protest? (Include 1-2 pictures)
  - (slide 8) What impact did the athlete have on the issue? (Include at least 1 picture)
- = **Slide 9: legacy** (What was their lasting impact? Include 1 picture)
- = **Slide 10: bibliography** – cite text sources only.