

## Sports Activism 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/team who was impactful or influential in some way and create either a slideshow or poster highlighting the athlete(s) and their actions.

You have the option to work on this on your own or partner up with someone in the class.



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

- Katherine Switzer (distance running)
- Jackie Robinson (integration of MLB)
- Tommie Smith & Jon Carlos (track, 1968 Olympics)
- Colin Kaepernick (Take a knee)
- Curt Flood (MLB, free agency)
- 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)
- Arthur Ashe (tennis, apartheid/race)
- Tom Waddell (1968 Olympic decathlete, LGBT)
- Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf (silent prayer)
- Ibtihaj Muhammad (fencing)
- Brittney Griner (WNBA, LGBTQ rights)
- Bubba Wallace (Nascar, Confed. flag)
- 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)

**\*\* Your project will NOT be presented to the entire class - it is designed to develop your research skills, help you learn about an athlete you otherwise may not know about, and demonstrate what you've learned in a visual format. \*\***

**Step 1: RESEARCH** your athlete. QUESTIONS you should be able to answer about your individual:

1. **Biography/background:**
  - a. Who are they? What are they famous for? (Sports fame, teams played on, years of play, accomplishments, etc.)
  - b. What was their issue? (Give details on the issue(s) they were focused on.)
2. **Connection to the time:**
  - a. What was happening at the time in the US? (Related to the person/issue)
  - b. What made them get involved or feel personally connected to the issue?
3. **Athlete's actions:** What did they do to protest/raise attention for their issue? (Consider how their actions were connected to the issue.)
4. **Athlete's influence/impact:**
  - a. How did fans, players and the league respond to their protest? (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 in the short term did the athlete have on the issue they were protesting?
5. **Athlete's legacy:** What was their legacy or lasting impact? (What, if anything, changed long term because of their activism? How do people remember the athlete today? How did they change things for people who came after them?)= =

SOURCES: You must use a minimum of 3 sources.

- Good web-based resources to consider: ESPN, Sports Illustrated, The Players' Tribune, Deadspin.
- *At least 1 of your sources must be drawn from the L-S databases.* Good resources to consider: Biography in Context (GALE), Pop Culture Universe, U.S. History in Context, Britannica Image Quest.
- **You do need a bibliography so make sure to keep track of your sources when you are researching!**

**Step 2: Create EITHER a Google slideshow presentation OR a poster** with the information in your notes. For those making a slideshow, here's a proposed set up:

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

**Step 3: Attach your finished presentation or a picture of it** to the assignment in Google Classroom and turn it in.