

Sports as History Project

One of the major premises of this course is that sports is more than just entertainment. Sports does not operate in a vacuum, isolated away from the world around it. Instead, sports, like most popular culture, is very much connected to and intertwined with the broader culture. Most major social, political & economic issues are reflected in sports and that is true of both today and sports in the past.

For this project, you are going to choose one example of sports being connected to the times, **research** it & **make a Google slideshow** to share that research with the class. ***You will present your finished project to your table group only.***

YOUR ASSIGNMENT:

1. Choose one example of how sports are connected to the times, research that topic (using *at least 3 reliable sources*) & take notes on your topic.
 - a. Notes should include:
 - i. an overview of your sports topic
 - ii. an explanation of what is/was happening culturally/historically that relates to your sports topic
 - iii. an exploration of the role those historical or cultural events plays(ed) in accelerating/influencing the topic
 - iv. and a clear explanation of what we can learn about history, society, culture, and conflict through this sports topic
2. Using your notes, build a slideshow presentation to share with the class. Your presentation should mirror the notes and be roughly 5-10 slides long.
 - a. ***You will be presenting slideshows to your table group only*** for this assignment. Think about how you can engage the group throughout. That may mean incorporating images or video to demonstrate what you're talking about, posing a question to start or end, etc.. You want to avoid a slideshow that is a wall of words.

REMINDERS:

- **You need a bibliography so make sure to keep track of your text sources when you are researching!** Make an additional slide after your content with your source citations.
- Make sure to include *at least* one image per slide
- Bullet text wherever you can (vs. blocks of paragraph text)
- If possible, try to integrate a short video clip as a way to show (not just tell) the class about your topic & its historical/cultural significance
- Font should be *at least* 18 pt or larger. Also remember that light colors, fancy fonts and text laid over images are hard to read when projected.

Sources: You must use *at least 3 credible sources (NOT Wikipedia!)*. Good resources to consider: *sports media sites like Sports Illustrated, Andscape, The Undeclared, The Players Tribune, ESPN, The Ringer, Yahoo Sports, Deadspin, Complex, or the LS library databases (Pop Culture Universe OR U.S. History in Context.)*

DUE: Block 3 (Tuesday, Oct. 11) & Block 7 (Wednesday, Oct. 12)

Possible topics (the list is not exhaustive - feel free to add a topic to the list but please get it okayed first!)

- Growth & impact of technology on sports
 - AI
 - Instant replay
 - Wearable tech
 - GPS
 - Sensors
 - Fan engagement
- Mental health in sports
 - Current status v. need for change (collegiate/pro)
 - Activists (amateur and/or pro)
- Concussions in sport
 - Football or soccer, response of leagues, etc.
- Integration or segregation of/in major sports leagues OR changing racial norms in sport
 - NFL, MLB and/or Negro Leagues
 - NBA and/or ABA
 - Race in skating, tennis, golf, soccer, etc.
 - Lacrosse & Native Americans
- Racial issues in sport
 - NFL's "race norming"
 - Brian Flores lawsuit v. NFL
 - C. Kaepernick & the NFL
 - Bubba Wallace & NASCAR
- Cheating in Sports
 - Steroids, PEDs or opioid use in sports
 - Gambling by athletes, coaches, game officials
- Sports gets political
 - NBA targets NC bathroom bills
 - NCAA athletes speak up about trans or abortion legislation
- Sports leagues and BLM
- WNBA activism (Breonna Taylor, Kelly Loeffler, etc.)
- Sports & the overturning of Roe v. Wade
- LIV golf & sportswashing
- Sports meets the historical moment
 - Red Sox & Boston Marathon bombing
 - Sports post 9/11
 - Covid & sports
 - Miracle on Ice
 - 1968 Black Power Olympics
 - 1936 Olympics
 - 1980 Olympic boycott
- Debates over sexuality & gender equity
 - Questioning the testosterone levels of female athletes, etc.
- Sexual abuse & #MeToo
 - Larry Nassar & USA gymnastics
 - NWSL (NC Courage, etc.)
 - NHL (Kyle Beach)
 - NFL (Washington cheerleaders)
- Sports & health sciences
 - Nutrition science
 - Science of sleep
 - Biohacking
 - Technology & the body