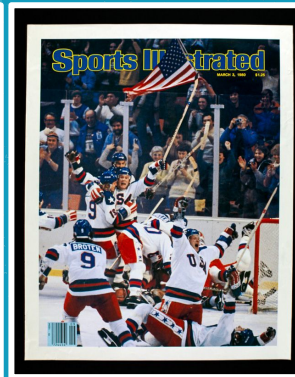
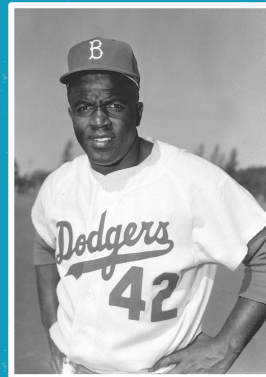


# Sports as History

Not Just a Game



# Sports = more than entertainment

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 and economic issues are reflected in sports and that is true of both today and sports in the past.

# QUESTION: What could someone learn about 21st century society by studying our sports?

Directions: We are going to use a series of sports stories & headlines to identify the values, norms & history underlying those stories. With your group, consider your assigned sports story (both video/article) & answer the questions below:

1. What is the story? *(Give a 1-2 sentence summary of what the issue is. Watch the video & check out the linked article. You may also want to, if possible, apply what you know about sports & the broader issues being discussed to make sense of what it's about.)*
2. What does this story tell us about sports AND broader American society, values, norms & events happening in the U.S? *(How is this story telling a story about life in the 21st century? The fact that we're focusing on this says something about what we're focused on as a society.)*

## **Your group's presentation should include...**

- A brief explanation of the sports story (context) to the class
- A short segment of a video (the one given or another you find as a group) to support your explanation with some visuals
- Explain what this story tells us about not just sports, but also about American society, values, norms, etc.. What broader issues does the story tap into? How is this a reflection of society in some way?

# GROUP 1: Mental health (N. Osaka, S. Biles, etc.)

Watch video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dakoO8WJ3mY>

Read article: <https://people.com/sports/athletes-quotes-on-mental-health/>



## NCAA Student-Athlete Well-Being Study

May 2022

NCAA RESEARCH

SPORTS

### When athletes share their battles with mental illness

Scott Gleeson and Erik Brady USA TODAY  
Published 8:08 a.m. ET Aug. 30, 2017 | Updated 1:55 p.m. ET Aug. 30, 2017

Raising consciousness  
'The civil rights movement of our era'

Jerry West, Brandon Marshall, Michael Phelps and Royce White have pierced through the mental health stigma with authentic accounts of their own struggles. USA TODAY Sports

# GROUP 2: Transgender rights (Lia Thomas)

Watch video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5pvCVL1DNk>

Read article:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/nbc-out-proud/ongoing-debate-lia-thomas-made-history-transgender-athletes-rcna28798>

The image shows a screenshot of the ESPN website. The top navigation bar includes the ESPN logo and links for NFL, NBA, MLB, NHL, Soccer, MMA, and College Sports. Below the navigation, there are links for Home, Scores, Rankings, and Tickets. The main content area features a large article titled "Amid protests, Penn swimmer Lia Thomas becomes first known transgender athlete to win Division I national championship". To the left of the main article, there are several smaller news snippets: "Thomas first transgender athlete to win D-I title", "'I ain't going to bed until Wednesday': Ole Miss celebrates historic championship", "Take a Fast Track to Your Next Nursing Degree" (with a "Meet ExcelTrack" button), "It will always be special!: Ole Miss rules MCWS opener in front of raucous crowd", and "Ole Miss tops Oklahoma, 1 win from MCWS title". At the bottom of the page, there is a small link for "Senators: Tuberville, Manchin working".

The image is a video thumbnail for an "abc NEWS EXCLUSIVE" segment. It features a portrait of Lia Thomas, a young woman with long, dark, wavy hair, wearing a red Penn State shirt. The text overlay on the video reads "TRANSGENDER COLLEGE SWIMMER LIA THOMAS SPEAKS OUT ABOUT WINNING, CRITICISM & HER FUTURE". The "abc NEWS EXCLUSIVE" logo is visible in the top left and bottom left corners. The Penn State logo is visible in the bottom right corner. A "Subscribe" button is located in the bottom right corner of the video frame.

# GROUP 3: Sexual violence (D. Watson/NFL)

Watch video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7WisdBROQ4>

Read article: [NYT article](#)



Cleveland Browns QB Deshaun Watson suspended for 6 games for policy violation

USES TO REPLACE SOME RED LINE TRAINS DURING SAFETY UPGRADES

**CLEVELAND BROWNS**

## NFL files appeal over six-game suspension of Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson



**Lorenzo Reyes**

USA TODAY

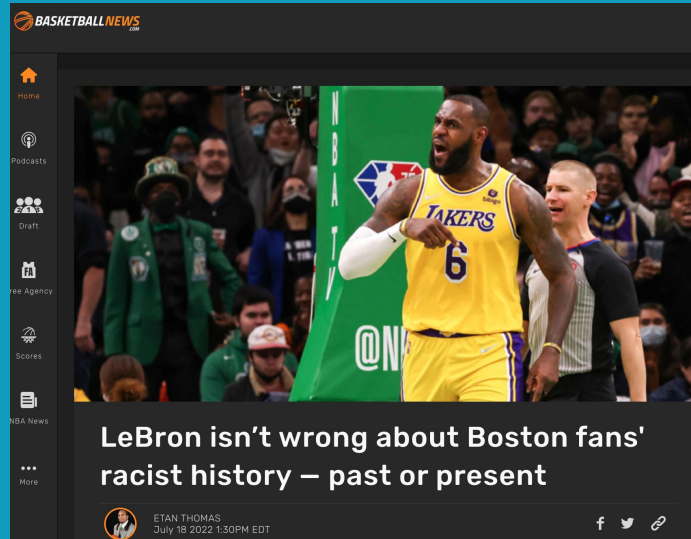
Published 4:39 p.m. ET Aug. 3, 2022 | Updated 5:09 p.m. ET Aug. 3, 2022



# GROUP 4: Racism (Lebron/Celtics)

Watch video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7r1WE4xltO>

Read article: <https://apnews.com/article/c1cd588301c640fc9cdd58cd813f876a>





# GROUP 5: Sportswashing (LIV golf)

Watch video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCS3oZCZX1Q>

Read article:

<https://sports.yahoo.com/liv-golf-brought-sportswashing-everyday-174604024.html>



	
DUSTIN JOHNSON	TIGER WOODS
<b>\$125M</b>	<b>\$121M</b>
<small>PAYCHECK FOR JOINING LIV GOLF TOURNAMENT (PER REPORTS)</small>	<small>ON-COURSE EARNINGS FROM PGA TOUR EVENTS</small>

The Washington Post  
*Democracy Dies in Darkness*

## 9/11 families urge Trump to cancel Saudi tour's event at his golf club

By Cindy Boren  
Updated July 20, 2022 at 3:45 p.m. EDT | Published July 18, 2022 at 12:37 p.m. EDT



# GROUP 6: Intersectionality of gender, race, politics (B. Griner)

Watch video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUOc\\_u2m07s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUOc_u2m07s)

Read article: [NYT article](#)



yahoo/news

## U.S. Offers Bold Prisoner Swap: 'Merchant of Death' for Brittney Griner and Paul Whelan

Alice Tecotzky  
July 27, 2022 · 3 min read

In this article:

- Brittney Griner
- Viktor Bout
- Antony Blinken

The article preview includes three small images: a man in a dark jacket, a close-up portrait of Brittney Griner, and a portrait of Paul Whelan. A name tag for 'SHAM TR' is visible in the bottom right of the Whelan portrait.

Getty Images, Reuters, Getty Images

The Biden administration has proposed a prisoner swap with Russia that



# WRITTEN RESPONSE

(3-5 sentences)

Sports does not operate in a vacuum, isolated 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.

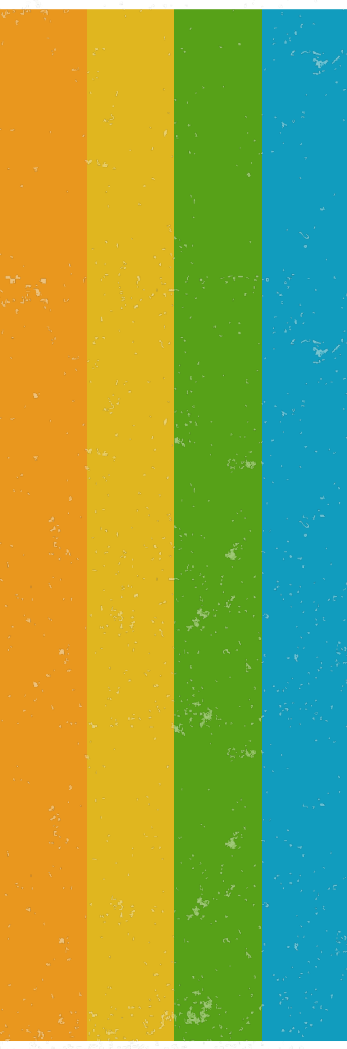
Where can we see evidence of that in the past year's sports headlines? (Use details from at least 2 of the videos/headlines to support your response.)

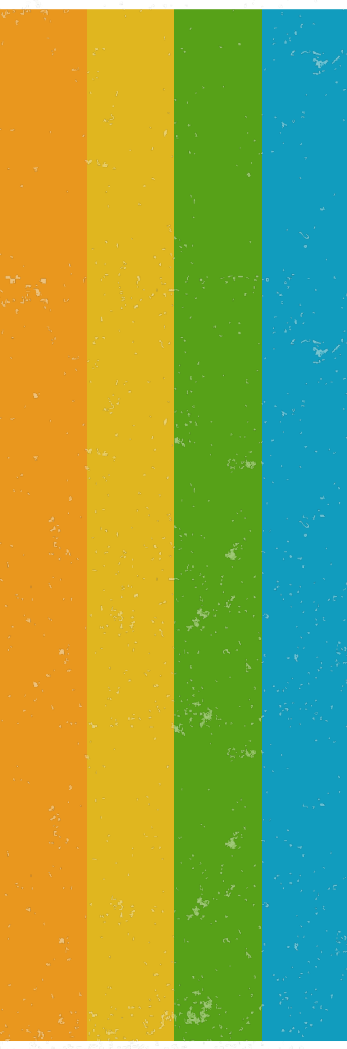


# **A case study: sports as history**

Transgender Athletes &  
the Law



- 
- ★ On a scale of 1-10, how important are sports to you?
  - ★ What do you like or get out of participating in those sports?  
What about playing sports is most important to you?

- 
- ★ On a scale of 1-10, how much do you care fairness in sports? Does it matter to you if athletes use PEDs to gain an advantage in sports?
  - ★ How would you feel if your school cut your sports team? (Meaning it is not offered.)
  - ★ What if I told YOU you can no longer participate in your sport(s)?



## **Focus of this case study:**

Exploring the way that recent state laws & debates about the rights of transgender people are showing up in the field of sports.





**Overview of  
the issue**

# Some things to keep in mind...

This unit will cover BOTH how society & individuals view & treat gender. We likely won't all agree on one "right" answer to the questions raised.

For the purposes of discussions, we have a few ground rules to ensure respect, safety & to allow for different opinions to be heard & considered.

# Some guidelines for this unit:

1. Respect the personal choices & opinions of individuals.
2. Do NOT purposefully misgender anyone or question their identity. Commit to abiding by the pronouns a person chooses to use.
3. Think before you speak. If you're curious if something is likely to be offensive, pause & think or check in with someone quietly. Don't just plow ahead!
4. Be willing to ask questions & try as best as you can to consider things from other people's perspective, even if it makes you uncomfortable.
5. Lead with curiosity & empathy & realize that at times we all step in it - it's how you handle it when you step in it that's important. Own it, apologize & learn from it.



# Defining terms

# Questions?

- What questions, if any, do you have about trans people in general?
- What questions, if any, do you have about trans participation in sports?

We'll do our best to answer those questions in this unit.





## **How big is the LGBTQ+ population & more specifically, how many Americans identify as transgender?**

- ★ As of 2021, a record **5.6% of U.S. adults identify as LGBTQ+** (up from 4.5% in 2017.)
- ★ Roughly **0.6% of American adults identify as transgender.**
- ★ The CDC released a report in 2019 that revealed that **2% of high school students identify as transgender.**



# **Why has there been such an increased focus on transgender people & rights at the state level?**

The short reason is BOTH **shifting generational trends** have made the issue feel more pressing AND there's an intense culture war that's been ongoing between the political Left & the Right.





# Shifting Generational Trends

- ★ Younger generations are more likely to consider themselves something other than heterosexual.  
(1 in 6 Gen Zers identify as LGBTQ+)

Americans' Self-Identification as LGBT, by Generation

	<b>LGBT</b>	<b>Straight/Heterosexual</b>	<b>No opinion</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Generation Z (born 1997-2002)	15.9	78.9	5.2
Millennials (born 1981-1996)	9.1	82.7	8.1
Generation X (born 1965-1980)	3.8	88.6	7.6
Baby boomers (born 1946-1964)	2.0	91.1	6.9
Traditionalists (born before 1946)	1.3	89.9	8.9

GALLUP, 2020

*NOTE: Gallup data doesn't include stats on Generation Alpha (those born between 2010-2024)*

# What does this chart reveal?

## Americans' Self-Identified Sexual Orientation, by Generation

	<b>Bisexual</b>	<b>Gay</b>	<b>Lesbian</b>	<b>Transgender</b>	<b>Other</b>
	%	%	%	%	%
Generation Z (born 1997-2002)	11.5	2.1	1.4	1.8	0.4
Millennials (born 1981-1996)	5.1	2.0	0.8	1.2	0.4
Generation X (born 1965-1980)	1.8	1.2	0.7	0.2	0.1
Baby boomers (born 1946-1964)	0.3	1.2	0.4	0.2	0.0
Traditionalists (born before 1946)	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1

Figures represent the percentage of all adult members of each generation who have that sexual orientation

GALLUP, 2020



★ Why are more & more young people identifying as transgender (or somewhere on the LGBTQ+ spectrum)?

- **The internet** has made it easier to get info, support & advice than ever before.
- **Greater visibility of LGBTQ+ people**, including public figures, has led to a broader feeling of social acceptance.
- **Advances in medical science** have made it possible to radically transform one's body.
- Activism that began in 1960s-'70s has helped to **destigmatize** LGBTQ people & made LGBTQ+ rights a modern civil rights issue.

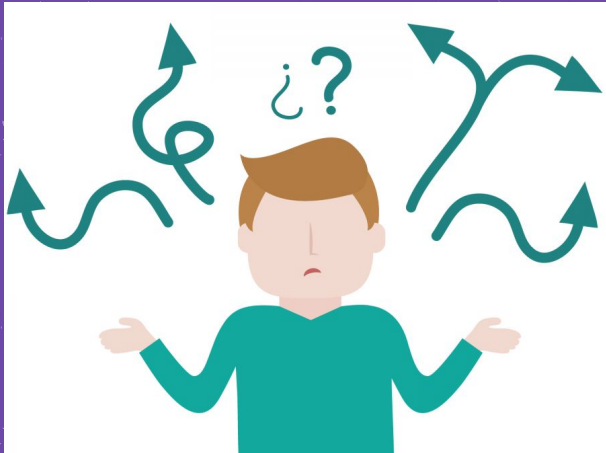


# The Culture War

What is the “culture war”?

How are trans people’s rights caught up in that debate?





**Transgender people face numerous social, economic & political challenges in society today, one of which is the varied state by state approach.**



With your table group, read over the information on slides 31-39.

Use the information on these slides to answer question #4 on your handout. (Your notes should include 3-5 specific details to support the question.)

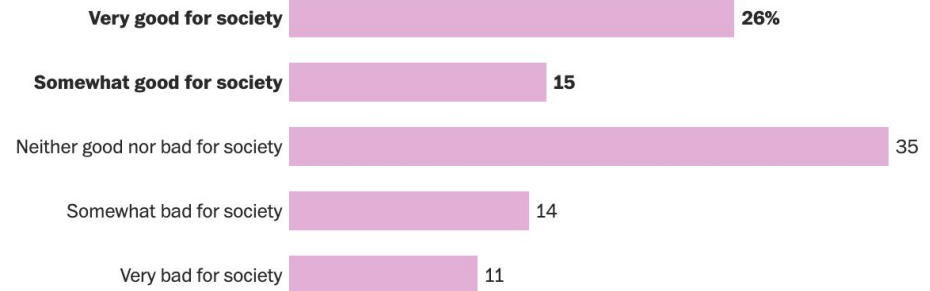
# Growing support yet continued discrimination?

- Growing support for trans rights:
  - ◆ In 2014, only 25% of Americans supported trans rights.
  - ◆ By 2019, support increased to 62%.

- Despite this progress, the trans community still faces stigma due to 100+ years of being characterized as mentally ill, deviant & sexually predatory.

## More Americans say social acceptance of transgender people is good rather than bad for society

Q: Do you think the greater social acceptance of transgender people is:



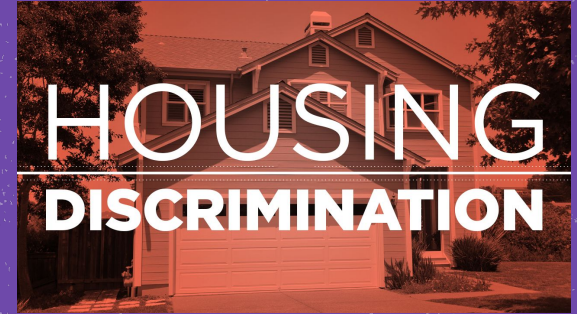
Note: Less than 0.5% said "no opinion."

Source: May 4-17, 2022, Washington Post-UMD poll of 1,503 U.S. adults with an error margin of +/- 3 percentage points. Conducted with UMD's Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement and Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism.

EMILY GUSKIN / THE WASHINGTON POST

# Stigma, harassment & discrimination

- HOUSING: 23% of trans people have experienced housing discrimination (i.e., being evicted from their home or denied a home or apartment because of being trans.)
- WORK: Trans unemployment rates are 2-3x the national average (& up to 4x for trans people of color!) 90% report experiencing harassment, mistreatment or discrimination on the job.
- PUBLIC SERVICES: 53% of trans people have been verbally harassed or disrespected in public accommodation (i.e., hotels, restaurants, buses, airports & govt. agencies.)





# Treatment in schools (K-12)

- Trans students (K-12) report alarming rates of:
  - Harassment (78%),
  - Physical assault (35%)
  - Sexual violence (12%)
- Harassment was so severe that it led 15% to leave a school in K-12 settings or in higher education.



# Violence

- Trans people experience violence at rates far greater than the average person.
- Violence against trans & gender non-conforming people reached a high in 2021.

## AN EPIDEMIC OF VIOLENCE

Trans people regularly experience high levels of trauma, mistreatment, harassment, and violence.

According to the U.S. Transgender Survey (USTS) of over 25,000 transgender respondents:

**1 out of 10**  
were verbally harassed

**1 out of 10**  
were physically attacked

**Nearly 50%** were sexually assaulted due to being transgender

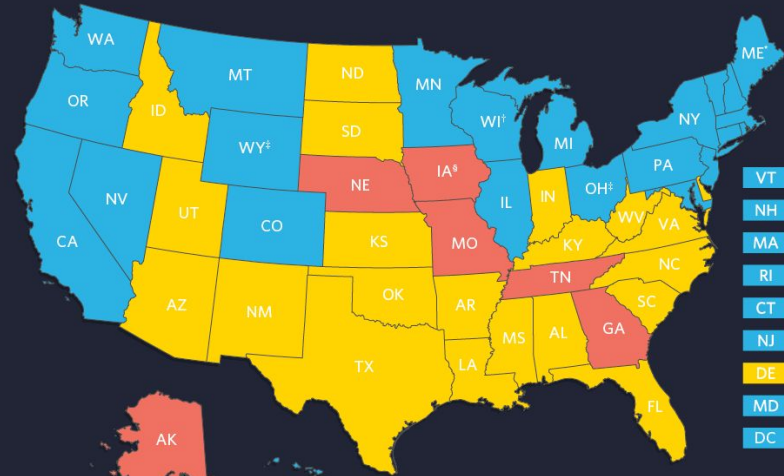
Source: U.S. Transgender Survey (USTS)

# Health Care

- 22% of trans people have no health insurance
- 29% of trans adults have been refused health care or verbally harassed by a doctor or provider because of their gender identity.
  - ◆ *“After an accident, I was left untreated in the ER for two hours when they found my breasts under my bra while I was dressed outwardly as male.”*
  - ◆ *“I have had general practitioners refuse to accept me as a patient on the basis of having a history of gender identity disorder.”*

## Medicaid for Transgender Health Care

The Trump administration is trying to overturn Obama-era Medicaid guidelines that protect transgender patients from discrimination. Some states have their own rules.



- Explicitly covers health care for transgender people
- Has no explicit policy on health coverage and care for transgender people
- Explicitly excludes transgender health coverage and care

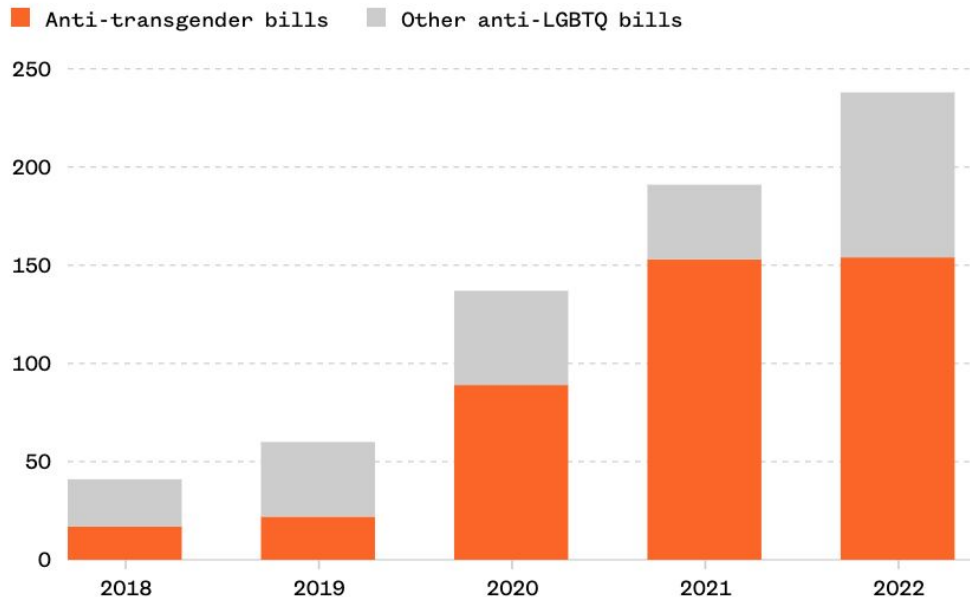


# Anti-LGBTQ Legislation

- Nearly 670 anti-LGBTQ bills have been filed since 2018
- In that time, the annual number of anti-LGBTQ bills filed skyrocketed from 41 bills in 2018 to 300+ bills in the first 4 months of 2022.

## Anti-LGBTQ state bills on the rise

Bills specifically targeting transgender Americans have skyrocketed since 2018, with all but three states weighing at least one since 2020.



### Notes

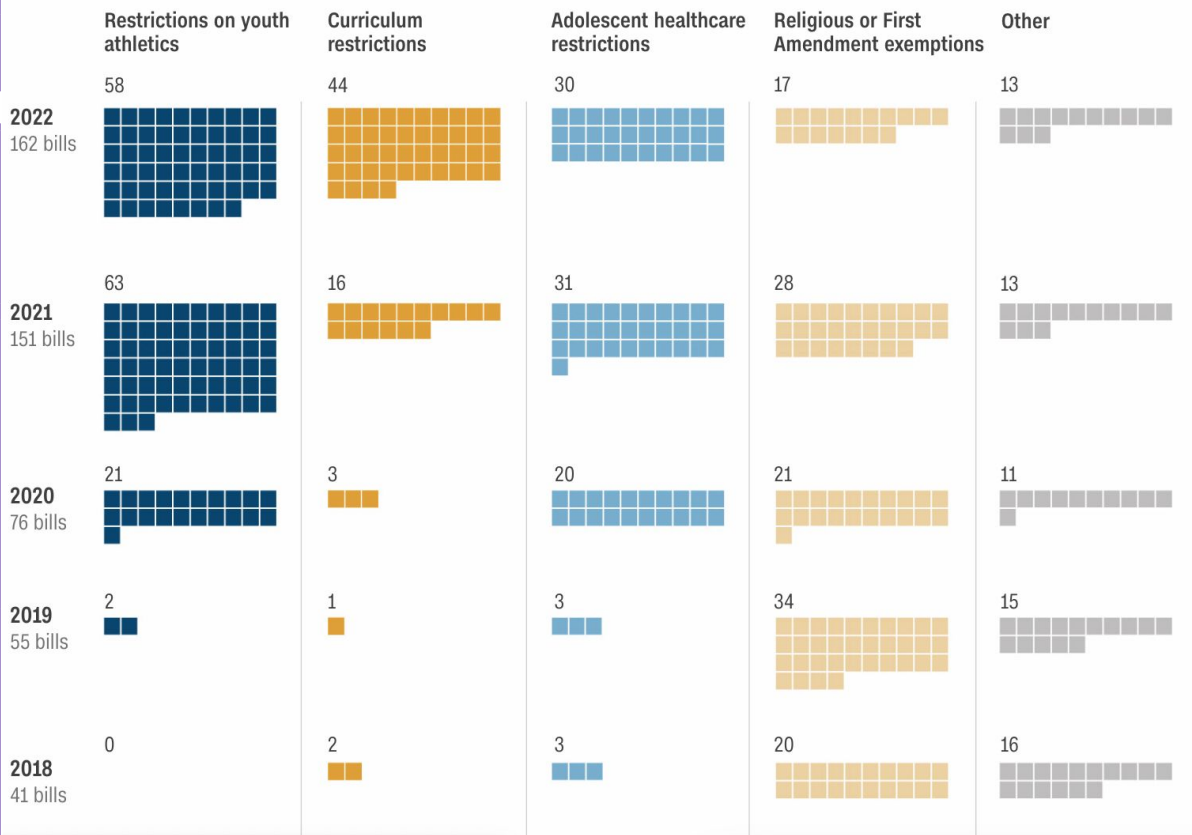
2022 totals are as of March 15

Sources: American Civil Liberties Union, Freedom for All Americans

Graphic: Elliott Ramos and Nigel Chiyaya / NBC News

## Record number of anti-LGBTQ bills introduced in 2022

Number of anti-LGBTQ bills introduced in state legislatures by year



# Anti-LGBTQ Legislation (cont.)

## Transgender girls and women now barred from female sports in Iowa

March 3, 2022 - 3:19 PM ET



Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds speaks before signing a law barring transgender women from female sports.  
Grant Gerlock/Iowa Public Radio

## 3 recent state laws

- Iowa bans trans girls from participating in girls sports
- TX governor orders state to investigate parents of trans kids for child abuse
- FL passes a “Don’t Say Gay” bill restricting discussion of LGBTQ in K-3 classrooms

## Texas governor calls on citizens to report parents of transgender kids for abuse

Gov. Greg Abbott said those who fail to report instances of minors receiving gender-affirming medical care could face “criminal penalties.”



POLITICS • LGBTQ

## Florida Just Passed The "Don't Say Gay" Bill.



Demonstrators protesting the so-called "Don't Say Gay" bill gather on the steps of the Florida Historic Capitol Museum in front of the Florida State Capitol in Tallahassee, Fla. on March 7, 2022. Wilfredo Lee—AP



— Texas transgender youths, their loved ones and families rally in Austin, Texas, on March 1 against Gov. Greg Abbott's directive to state health agencies to investigate gender-affirming care for transgender youths as child abuse.

**REFLECT: How could you make the case that laws targeting trans athletes are just one piece of a much bigger puzzle?**



**(Consider how these sports bans are connected to broader social/political issues.)**





# Changing the Game (Hulu, 2019)



# Film Questions

1. What do you learn about each of the 3 athletes?
2. What benefits do these athletes seem to get from participating in their sports? Consider why they are fighting so hard to be able to play/compete.
3. What do the families of the teens share about their fears & wants for their teens?
4. How are the athletes treated by their teammates & coaches?
5. Critics:
  - a. What are some of the negative comments directed at or about these athletes?
  - b. How are the athletes treated by spectators at their events?
6. How could you make the case that the 3 students are not just athletes but also activists?

## **What do you enjoy most about running track?**

How free it makes me feel. As I'm running, I'm so focused. That's the only thing in my mind. There's just nothing else, no distractions. I like how individualized the sport is, but also how much of a team and family there is. How much [the team] meant to me during what I went through in high school, and how much they were there to support me.

## **Why was that support so important?**

There was this one instance junior year where I didn't want to run track anymore—because of what the media had said and all the negativity. I think I was just tired; I just kept having to defend my right to play a sport. I didn't want to keep going through that. And while I tried to focus on the positives, that would get tiring as well. It got to a point where it was too much. [I thought that] I would rather save my own mental health and maybe do something else that didn't involve all that negativity.

[My teammates] were always there to uplift me, and make me laugh—to pick me back up, to kind of remind me why I'm doing what I'm doing. One of my friends also brought up that this is a lot bigger than just me: This affects many other trans athletes who may be going through what I'm going through. I felt I couldn't let them down either. I'm very glad I stayed with it.



**A wave of anti-trans legislation is currently being introduced across the United States right now. What do you think, from your experience, the impact of these bills could be?**

I think a lot of people maybe aren't as educated on the topic, and they have this [idea] that trans athletes only play sports to win medals, to get first place, to bring that trophy home. I mean, that's never the case. One misunderstood notion of trans individuals should not impact whether a kid can play soccer or not; athletes play sports because they love what they do. And I mean, attempting to take that away from kids—to take away their ability to participate in what they love to do, that's just not right. And they shouldn't have to go through that just because of who they are.





# Scenarios to consider

Do you think a 6-year old trans girl has a competitive advantage over cisgender girls, and therefore should be banned from girls youth sports?

Should a 16-year old transgender girl who has been taking beta-blockers since she was 12 to suppress male puberty be allowed to compete on the girls' track team?

Should a 17-year old transgender boy, who has been taking testosterone injections since he was 13, be allowed to compete on the boys' soccer team?

# Scenarios to consider

Should a 21-year old transgender woman, who has been on hormone therapy for 2+ years, be allowed to compete on the collegiate level with the women's tennis team?

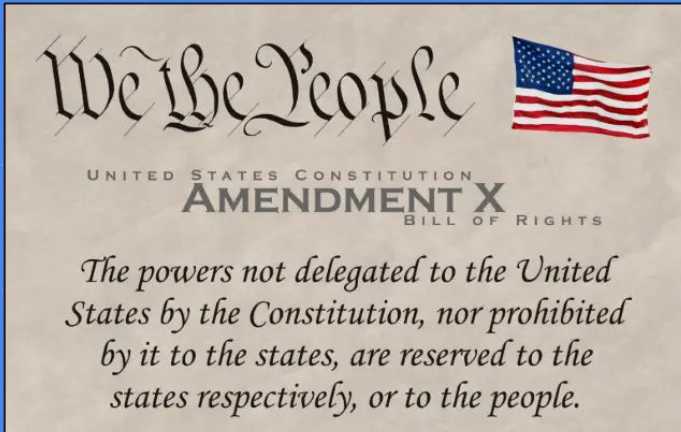
Do you believe that an athlete who is 26-years old should be able to announce a transition from male to female on June 4 & compete in the women's Olympic track & field trials on June 5?





# Who owns this issue?

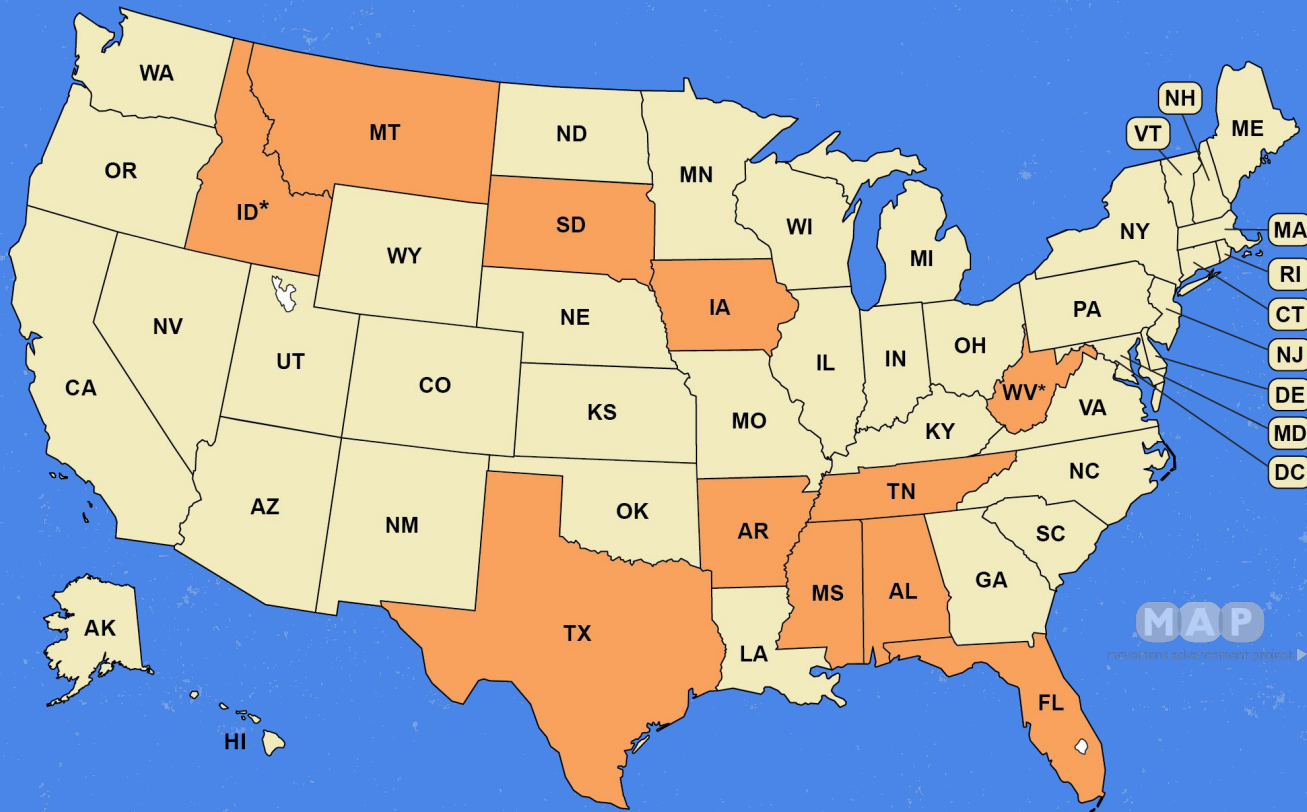
(Federal v. State)



## Questions:

- What level of government should take control of this issue?
- Is this a civil rights issue or a states' rights issue?
- Where do politics enter into this?

We often turn to the federal government when dealing with the issue of rights, but any issue based in education is difficult because the federal government doesn't have any real say with regards to a state's educational decisions.



State law bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity (*11 states*)

State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity (*39 states, 5 territories + D.C.*)

By November of 2021, 37 states were considering bills to ban the participation of transgender girls & women, or all transgender athletes from participating on teams that align with their gender identity.



# Massachusetts

In 2011 Governor Deval Patrick signed H3810 into law. This law:

1. Defined gender identity as: “a person’s gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person’s physiology or assigned sex at birth.”
2. Prohibits gender identity discrimination in public schools whether by a school employee or fellow student

## **Physical Education Classes and Intramural & Interscholastic Athletic Activities:**

Where there are sex segregated classes or athletic activities, including intramural and interscholastic athletics, all students must be allowed to participate in a manner consistent with their gender identity.

With respect to interscholastic athletics, the MIAA relies on the gender determination made by the student’s district; it will not make separate gender identity determinations.



# Idaho



Madison Kenyon, who is a cisgender runner at Idaho State University. She supports the law.

Idaho was the 1st state to pass a law banning trans women & girls from participating on teams that align with their gender identity.

The “[Fairness in Women’s Sports Act](#)” uses Supreme Court rulings concerning sex & “celebrates” various biological differences between the sexes. The act was signed into law, but immediately challenged in court.

A lawyer for two of the women fighting to keep the Act in place argues: *“We’ve had women’s sports as a separate category for nearly 50 years & have had no issues being able to determine who & what a woman is. We want to ensure that we protect women based on their sex, so that they have those opportunities Title IX was designed to provide them.”*

# Idaho



Lindsay Hecox, who is trans, hopes to stop the Act & wants to run at Boise State Univ.

Opponents of the act argue that it amounts to exclusion.

The plaintiff in the federal case, Lindsay Hecox (left), ran on the boys team in high school before transitioning. She argues that medically suppressing her testosterone levels has significantly reduced her athletic performance.

The judge who originally blocked the law claims that *“it remains a matter of ‘significant dispute’ whether ‘transgender women who suppress their testosterone have significant physiological advantages over cisgender women.’”* He went on to point out that the argument of broad inequality didn’t hold up when only 4 athletes were at issue - 3 of whom lost to cisgender women.



**READING: The Next Cultural  
Battle: States Take Aim at Trans  
Athletes**



# DEBRIEF: The Next Cultural Battle: States Take Aim at Trans Athletes



**Q:** What factors are currently influencing the question of whether transgender athletes may participate in sports?

**Q:** How is the issue of trans athletes' participation in sports a reflection of the current political/social moment?





**FYI:** In the end, these laws could impact an estimated 35,000 athletes who are transgender.

That is 0.44% of high school athletes (& doesn't include college.)

Only a very small number of trans athletes win championships at the K-12 level. Yet, as one parent put it, “We know that there's other transgender girls running, but we don't care about them because they're not winning”

# Reflection Assignment

1. How is the issue of trans athletes' participation in sports a reflection of the current political/social moment?
2. How would you describe your knowledge of AND position on this issue at the start of the unit? Why did you have that position?
3. Has your position evolved? Why or why not?
4. Identify TWO specific aspects of the unit that have impacted your thought process on this issue. How did they support your stance or make you think differently about the issue?



# Sports as History Project

For this project, you are going to choose one example of sports being connected to the times, research it & share that research back with the class.

## 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 exploration of the role historical or cultural events plays(ed) in accelerating/influencing the topic
    - iii. 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.
  - 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.