

## KIN 101 Sport in America

### San Jose State University: Department of Kinesiology

#### Social and Political Actions in Sport

For this assignment, students are to identify an individual or group in sport that has been subjected to some form of oppression or injustice, and to describe social actions taken by the individual or group in their struggles for greater equality and power. In the paper, students should also outline the arguments made by those who attempted to resist change. Students should attempt to tie whatever issues they raise with larger social issues outside of sport, and describe how the actions taken by the chosen individual or group have or have not affected American society and culture. Some suggested topics might involve individuals or groups that have been confronted by oppressive or unjust practices/policies related to issues of race/ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or age. Students are also encouraged to draw from the entire history of American sport for this assignment. ***Students are required to cite at least three (3) primary sources (i.e. academic journal articles, etc.) in the paper (APA Style). Paper topics must be approved by the instructor. The required length of the paper is 5-7 double-spaced pages.*** Criteria for evaluation of the paper include: 1) content, 2) organization/structure 3) integration of relevant theory and class materials, 4) writing clarity, and 5) originality.

Past topics and possible suggestions for papers (remember the focus here is on inequality, social change & action):

- Black power movement, 1960s, and track and field/boxing/football/basketball
- The development of professional player unions
- History of amateurism vs. professionalism in U.S. pro sport, labor rights, class issues, and free agency
- NCAA reform movements
- “Play Pump” and international humanitarian efforts through sport
- Violence/Hazing in high school sport and reform
- Gender discrimination in sport, Title IX, and growth/challenges in female sports
- Female athletes and media representations
- Gender representations in “non-traditional” sports (i.e. Men in Syncro swimming or Women in Football)
- Representations of Black athletes and the media
- Representations of Latino baseball players and the media
- Asian sporting representations
- Latino baseball players and labor exploitation
- Athlete labor exploitation and rights and the NCAA
- LGBTQ athletes and sexual discrimination
- Disabled athletes, visibility, and equal access to sport
- Olympic reform movements and athlete power, administrator surveillance
- Socioeconomic class and access to sport
- International identities, sport, and racism
- Historical analysis of racism in a particular sport and social action
- Neo-fascism, European soccer, and anti-racist movements
- Sports, youth, and war refugees (Eastern Europe, Africa, and/or Middle East)
- Lack of minority coaches, ADs and administrators, affirmative action, and equal opportunity in professional and college sport
- Hegemonic masculinity, locker room violence, bullying, and sport in elementary and secondary schools
- Police athletic leagues, gang violence, race, crime prevention, and inner-city youth
- African soccer players, European professional soccer, agents, globalization, and labor exploitation
- Labor practices of sporting apparel manufacturers
- Any number of important trail-blazing individuals from across a range of time periods and sports

## GENERAL NOTES

- 5- 7 pages of text, not including title and reference pages (max of 10 written text pages)
- Reference min. of 3 journal, peer-reviewed articles the more the better (none can be used from class reader)
- 10 or 12 pt. font, APA style, black ink, times new roman font style, white paper, indent new paragraphs, use paragraph breaks
- Need to have in-text citations for any material noted on the reference page
- Double space lines of text
- Inside the paper - main section titles are good for organization (e.g. section title Moving Toward Change: Social Action in H.S. Sport)
- Brief, clear, and concise writing; write with academic, formal voice
- Avoid the over use of direct and block quotations
- Read and follow in detail the paper guidelines
- Try to avoid overuse of *it*, *they*; make sure tenses agree; use of I in this paper is OK
- Use spell check and grammar check!

### A. Title Page

Title page should include:

1. Running Head (left justified, upper case letters, paper title)
2. Upper Right Hand Corner: a shortened version of paper title placed in the upper right hand corner in the header section, 5 spaces before the pg number
3. Title of Paper (be creative here!)
4. Author Name
5. University
6. Class Name & Section if applicable
7. Date
8. Pg #s in upper right hand corner preceded by truncated running head title (5 space between title and pg #)
9. Except for running head and pg numbers, everything else on title page is centered and double spaced
10. 12 pt. Font only!

### B. Introduction (1-2 pages)

1. Optional cite an interesting quote to frame the discussion
2. Intro sentences to topic and paper
3. Statement of purpose (what you will write about and discuss do in the paper)
4. Goals of paper
5. Definition of terms if applicable (Stress, racism, sexism, ageism, etc whichever terms you will be using in your paper and fit into the experiences you are discussing in the paper)

### C. Social/Political Action: History, Participants, and Cultural Frame (1- 2 pages)

1. Describe and analyze sociocultural history surrounding the sport and the participants, and social action (this could be a specific situation, or many situations with similar types of inequities e.g. race, sexual orientation, ageism, disability, ethnicity, occupational, religion, and/or class)
2. Legal, political ramifications if any
3. Relate to journal articles, which discuss in some fashion, the general nature of the topic

#### **D. Larger Sociocultural Analysis (1-2 pages)**

1. How it reflect or relates (or not) to larger movements in society
2. How effected change in larger society or not
3. Similar types of social or political actions taken in other sports or areas of social life
4. Reflect on your own thoughts and ideas on the subject

#### **E. Summary of Content and Conclusion (1 page)**

1. Summarize the main content of paper
2. Wrap up main themes of paper
3. Suggest possible intervention(s) and/or social actions
4. Reference any additional journal materials
5. Final thoughts and looking forward, future areas of research

#### **F. References**

1. New page unto itself titled: References
2. APA style is usually cited: Last Name, First Name 1<sup>st</sup> Letter. (year). Article title. Journal title, vol, pp. .  
e.g. citation: Johnson, B. (2007). Learning to read the media. *Journal of Popular Culture*, 11, 124-135.
3. See Purdue owl link for more on APA

#### **GO TO THIS APA LINK BEFORE YOU TURN IN THE PAPER:**

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01>

Web Site: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/> (VERY useful resource for writing and research including APA style)

#### **Professional Journal Articles:**

Professional journal articles, or scholarly articles, have undergone a review process before publication. This means that the article has been reviewed by experts and typically revised prior to publication. The peer-review process helps to ensure that high quality articles are published. For this assignment, it's recommended that you begin searching for articles using *Academic Search Premier* & *SportDiscus* (two of the library's databases) and on the search menu, check the box to limit your search to peer-reviewed articles. This database also provides full text articles. How to search using this database will be demonstrated in class. Reference librarians in the King Library are also available to help you search for references.

You **MUST** provide reference citations (use author, year format) for information you include in your paper, and a reference list must be included. Failing to provide reference citations is **PLAGIARISM!** Be sure to read the information that follows on plagiarism. It also illustrates how to include reference citations in the text of your paper, and how to cite references in your reference list. The King Library also has an online tutorial on plagiarism. Be sure you know what plagiarism is and how to avoid it!

### **PLAGIARISM**

"Plagiarism in student writing is often unintentional, as when an elementary school pupil, assigned to do a report on a certain topic, goes home and copies down, word for word, everything on the subject in an encyclopedia. Unfortunately, some students continue to use such 'research methods' in high school and even in college without realizing that these practices constitute plagiarism. You may certainly use other persons' words and thoughts in your research paper, but you must acknowledge the authors" (Gibaldi & Achtert, 1988, p. 22).