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More than a game

SPORT ET SOCIÉTÉ

What does American sport
tell us about the USA?



↑ Not Just a Game, Dave Zirin (2010)

SCENARIO

Americans love sports. From baseball to football, basketball, ice hockey, golf and, increasingly, soccer, sports play an important role in American society. They have become a multi-million-dollar industry with followers all over the world. At the same time, they have contributed to racial and social integration.

FINAL TASK

Take part in a
mini documentary
about great
sporting moments



ANTICIPATE

vidéo 22

a. **Look at the still.**
Brainstorm all you know about the situation:
who, what, when, where and why.

b. **Watch** the excerpt of "Not Just a Game".
The athletes protested in four different ways.
What were they?

c. **Match** the four forms of protest to the points
they wanted to make.

1. to represent workers
2. to protest against the lynching of black
people
3. to support the Civil Rights Movement
4. to denounce poverty in the USA

d. What happened to the athletes afterwards?
Do you think it was right or wrong?
Even if what they did was...
The Olympic Committee should /
shouldn't have + V-en...

prof. 56 élève 48

- **to be discriminated against** /drɪ'skrɪmɪneɪt id/
- **to be segregated**
- **to count on sb:** compter sur qqn
- **to do the right / wrong thing** =
to take the right / wrong decision
- **to raise a fist:** lever le poing
- **to show solidarity with**

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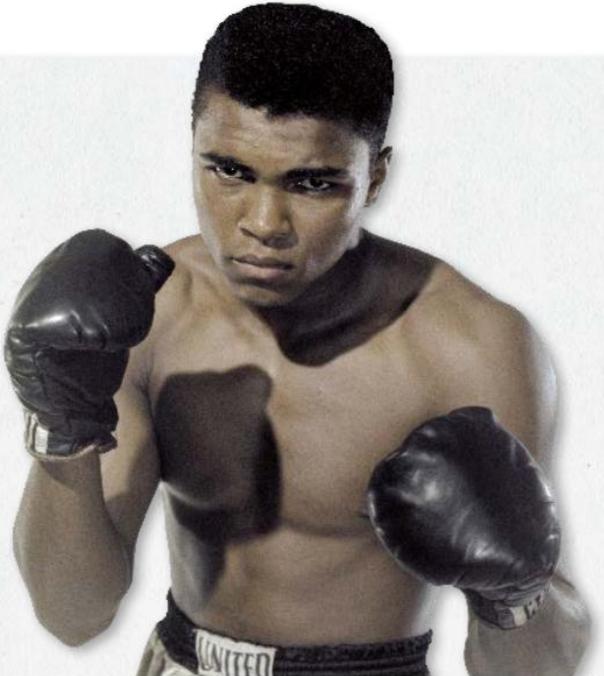
1 The original activist-athlete

There are a couple nagging questions all successful, high-profile athletes inevitably have to grapple with: What does it mean to have a voice? What does it mean to truly be great? (...)

Muhammad Ali, the legendary boxer, was arrogant, bold, and unapologetically confident in his own greatness. Coming of age in the heart of the Civil Rights Movement, with racial tensions at a breaking point, Ali refused to make himself smaller just to make others more comfortable.

In 1960, Ali (then Cassius Clay) won a gold medal in light heavyweight boxing at the Rome Olympics at the age of 18. He was so proud that he wore the medal all the time upon his return to the United States—up until the moment he was refused service at a small dinner party because he was black. That night, he threw his medal into the Ohio River.

In 1967, he refused to be drafted to go fight in Vietnam, citing the fact that he had converted to Islam in 1964. (...) "My conscience won't let me go shoot my brother, or some darker people, or some poor hungry people in the mud for big powerful America," he said at the time. "And shoot them for what? They never called me nigger, they never lynched me, they didn't put no dogs on me, they didn't rob me of my nationality, rape and kill my mother and father... Shoot them for what?"



↑ Muhammad Ali: the original activist-athlete, Think Progress (2016)

ANTICIPATE

a. Look at the photograph.

Brainstorm all you know about Muhammad Ali.

I think he was...
Wasn't he...?

b. Read the text.

Pick out adjectives used to describe Ali.

c. Focus on the second paragraph.

Explain this sentence in your own words: "Ali refused to make himself smaller just to make others more comfortable." (l. 10-12)

d. Focus on the last paragraph.

Explain Ali's statement.

Who and what was he referring to?

I guess he was talking about...

e. Sum up why he can be considered an activist-athlete.

f. Discuss whether athletes should use their status to make political statements. Justify your opinion.

I'm totally for / against this because...
I think athletes should / shouldn't...
In my opinion, athletes should definitely use their status to...
Mixing sport and politics...



2 A disrespectful gesture?



In early 2016, I began paying attention to reports about the incredible number of unarmed black people being killed by the police. The posts on social media disturbed me, but one in particular brought me to tears: the killing of Alton Sterling in my hometown Baton Rouge. This could have happened to any of my family members who still live in the area. I felt furious, hurt and hopeless. I wanted to do something, but didn't know what or how to do it. All I knew for sure is that I wanted it to be as respectful as possible.

A few weeks later, during preseason, my teammate Colin Kaepernick chose to sit on the bench during the national anthem to protest police brutality.

I approached Colin the Saturday before our next game to discuss how I could get involved with the cause but also how we could make a more powerful and positive impact on the social justice movement. We spoke at length about many of the issues that face our community, including systemic oppression against people of color, police brutality and the criminal justice system. After hours of careful consideration (...), we came to the conclusion that we should kneel, rather than sit, the next day during the anthem as a peaceful protest. We chose to kneel because it's a respectful gesture.

It baffles me that our protest is still being misconstrued as disrespectful to the country, flag and military personnel. We chose it because it's exactly the opposite. It has always been my understanding that the brave men and women who fought and died for our country did so to ensure that we could live in a fair and free society, which includes the right to speak out in protest.

It should go without saying that I love my country and I'm proud to be an American. But, to quote James Baldwin, "exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually."



↑ Eric Reid and Colin Kaepernick kneeling during the national anthem (2016)

↑ Why Colin Kaepernick and I decided to take a knee, Eric Reid, The New York Times (2017)

a. Read the text.

Are these sentences true or false?

Justify with a quote from the text.

1. One of Reid's family members was killed.
2. Colin and Eric thought that kneeling was more appropriate than sitting.
3. A lot of people thought their action was inappropriate.

b. Read the text again.

Sum up the story in your own words:
who, what, when, where and why.



c. Focus on James Baldwin's quote (l. 23).

Do you agree? Why (not)?

Criticizing something doesn't mean that...
When you criticize your nation, people may think...

d. Find information about Kaepernick and Reid.

What consequences did their protest have on their careers? **Present** your findings to the class.

What I've found out is...

Colin and Eric were criticized by...



prof. 57
élève 49

- to be **criticized** /kritisarzd/
- to be **suspended**
- to **denounce an injustice** /dɪ'nəns ɪn'dʒastɪs/
- to **fight for / against sth:** se battre pour / contre qqch
- to **make a political statement:** affirmer un point de vue politique
- to **protest** /prə'test/
- to **speak out (about / against)**
- to **stand up for sth:** se battre pour qqch

• **Le présent** → p. 211

They **knelt** to denounce injustices against African Americans.

• **La voix passive** → p. 217

Colin and Eric **were criticized** for kneeling during the anthem.

• **L'expression du regret** → p. 224

They **shouldn't have knelt** during the anthem. It was bad for their careers.



3 Marathon woman

ANTICIPATE

- a. Look at the still and read the caption.
Make hypotheses about how Kathrine Switzer felt and how people reacted to her participation in the marathon.

I guess she felt...

- b. Watch the video and check your ideas.
c. Watch the video again.
Take notes about the consequences during the race and after the race.

While she was running...



- d. Did Kathrine Switzer finish the race? Why (not)?
Write a short paragraph to summarise what you have understood.

VIDEO

vidéo 23



↑ First woman to enter the Boston marathon,
Makers (2012)



4

Just a soccer player?

ANTICIPATE

- a. Look at the photo.
Make hypotheses about Abby:
profession, nationality, feelings...

Well, she must be...
She seems to be...

prof. 58

- b. Listen to the audio.
Write down as much information as possible about her.
What happened after the World Cup final?
What did she stand up for?
c. Sum up the inequalities between men and women in soccer.
d. Search the Internet.
Find out why Americans say "soccer" and not "football".



↑ Abby Wambach at the FIFA Women's World Cup (2015)

prof. 59
élève 50

- to be allowed to do sth
- to be expelled
- to be out of control /kən'trol/
- to earn money = to make money: gagner de l'argent
- to grab (at) sth: saisir qqch
- to make a point: soulever un point important
- to prove sth

• Le présent en be + V-ing → p. 211

While she was running, a man tried to stop her.
Abby Wambach was receiving the trophy, when her wife kissed her.

VOCABULARY

→ Banque d'exercices p. 187

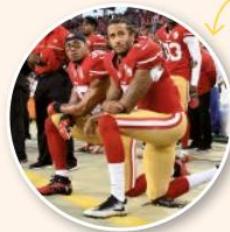


FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS

lynching
oppression
police brutality
racial discrimination
unfair criminal justice system
to be discriminated against

FOR WOMEN

inequality = not being treated equally
not to be allowed to do something
to earn | less (money)
make



AFRICAN AMERICANS

to do the black power salute
to kneel during the national anthem
to organize a peaceful protest
to refuse to be drafted
= to refuse to go to war
to stand up for sth
to throw away a medal



WOMEN

to compete (in)
to enter | an all-male marathon
to finish
to run
to kiss her wife on TV

PROBLEMS

ACTIONS

ACTIVIST-ATHLETES

REASONS

CONSEQUENCES

PERSONALITY

to denounce an injustice
to get involved in a cause
to make | a political statement
a point
to prove sth
to represent sb
to show solidarity with sb
to speak out (about / against)

POSITIVE
to become icons
to get media attention
to have a positive influence
to inspire others

NEGATIVE
to be | criticized
misunderstood
to be | expelled
suspended

bold
brave
confident
outspoken
proud
respectful

Make your own mind map

Make a mind map about an American athlete who spoke up for what he / she believes in.

PREPARATION TIME

How to take part in a captivating documentary

La préparation

• Faites des recherches

Commencez par chercher des informations sur :
- l'athlète (âge, palmarès, exploits, etc.) ;
- le lieu, le contexte historique (année, mentalités de l'époque, etc.) ;
- l'impact que cet événement a eu sur la société et la carrière de l'athlète.

• Écrivez le script

Des phrases simples et courtes vous permettront d'adopter un style oral et d'éviter les erreurs.

• Anticipez les difficultés

Repérez dans votre script les mots difficiles à prononcer. Cherchez leur transcription phonétique ou écoutez-les dans un dictionnaire en ligne. Puis, répétez votre texte à voix haute et déterminez les endroits où il faut faire des pauses. Notez-les sur votre script pour ne pas les oublier.

L'entraînement

• Échauffez vos cordes vocales

Faites des vocalises. Partez d'un « A » grave et montez jusqu'à un « A » aigu, puis redescendez.

TRAIN YOUR VOICE

La prononciation de « -ed »

prof. 60
élève 51

prof. 61
élève 52

prof. 62
élève 53

1 Écoutez ces phrases. Repérez les verbes au prétérit.

- a. They stopped getting media attention.
- b. They wanted to make a political statement.
- c. She turned to kiss her wife.

2 Écoutez ces bases verbales. Associez-les à leur son final.

- a. stop
- b. want
- c. turn

1. /t/ ou /d/

2. un son voyelle ou de consonne voisée (où les cordes vocales vibrent)

3. un son consonne sourde (où les cordes vocales ne vibrent pas)

3 Écoutez les mêmes verbes au prétérit. Se terminent-ils par /t/, /d/ ou /ɪd/ ?

4 Complétez la règle :

Après un son voyelle ou un son de consonne voisée (/b/, /g/, /m/, /n/...), « -ed » se prononce

Après un son de consonne sourde (/p/, /f/, /k/, /s/, /ʃ/, /tʃ/...), « -ed » se prononce

Après un son /t/ ou /d/, « -ed » se prononce

• Soyez synchrone

Faites défiler le diaporama en essayant de faire correspondre vos phrases aux images. Rappelez-vous que votre ton doit toujours être bien adapté au sujet.

L'enregistrement

• Attention au débit !

130 mots pour une minute d'enregistrement vous assureront un débit convenable. Enregistrez-vous et écoutez-vous pour vérifier la clarté, le volume et le débit de votre voix. N'hésitez pas à enregistrer votre voix off en plusieurs étapes si c'est plus simple pour vous.

L'édition de la vidéo

• Ajoutez votre voix sur les images

Éditez votre vidéo en ajoutant votre voix au documentaire grâce à un logiciel de montage vidéo tel que Movie Maker ou iMovie.



FINAL TASK



TAKE PART IN A MINI DOCUMENTARY ABOUT GREAT SPORTING MOMENTS



In groups of 4 make a mini documentary about great sporting moments in which activist-athletes stood up for what they believe in. Each will record a part of the documentary. You will share your creations with other students.



- a. Go to www.espacelangues.emdl.fr.

Choose one of the four video clips illustrating a sporting moment that had an impact on American society or download 4 pictures of your choice.

- b. Find information about the athletes, the setting, the year and the importance that it had on society.

- c. Write your text.

Make sure that it contains different parts to match the different pictures in the video.

- d. Action! Record your voice-over.

- e. Edit your work and show your documentary to the class.

MEDIATION

- f. Upload the best documentaries to the school's website so that other students can learn about great sporting moments.

In 1968, during the Summer Olympics in Mexico City, an event changed the way we see sports and politics.

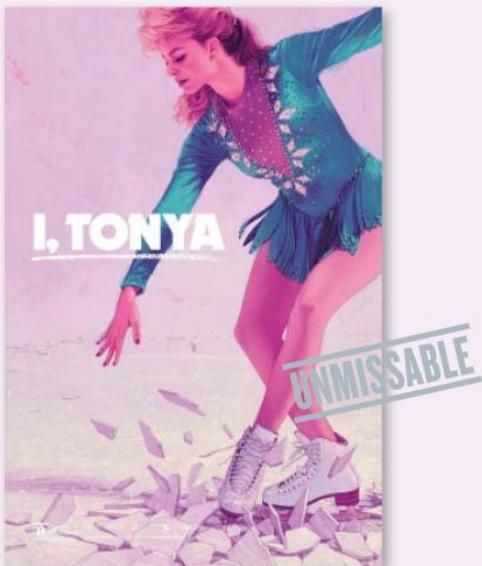
Athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos were representing the USA and they won a gold and a bronze medal...

During the medal ceremony they decided to... in order to protest against... This gesture became a symbol for black people fighting for civil rights.

MORE BOOKS, FILMS... ABOUT THE TOPIC

SPORT ET SOCIÉTÉ

10 Fair play?



Books

- Michael Jordan: **The Life** (2014)
- Open, by Andre Agassi (2009)
- Soul Surfer, by Bethany Hamilton (2004)
- Ultimate Sports, by Donald R. Gallo (1995)
- The Basket Counts, by Matt Christopher (1968)

Films

- I, Tonya (2017)
- 42 (2013)
- Miracle (2004)
- Bend It Like Beckham (2002)
- Jimmy Grumble (2000)
- Remember the Titans (2000)

TV Series

- Pitch (2016)
- The Mavericks (2016)

Documentaries

- O.J.: Made in America (2016)
- Iverson (2014)
- Playing for the Mob (2014)

11 More than a game

Books

- Wolfpack, by Abby Wambach (2019)
- Ways of Grace: Stories of Activism, Adversity, and How Sports Can Bring Us Together, by James Blake and Carol Taylor (2017)
- Serena Williams. My life, by Daniel Paisner and Serena Williams (2015)
- The Boys in the Boat, by Daniel Brown (2014)

Films

- First Match (2018)
- Battle of the Sexes (2017)
- Race (2016)
- Ali (2001)

TV Series

- All American (2018-today)
- Glow (2017-today)
- Friday Night Lights (2006-2011)

Documentaries

- American Cheerleader (2014)

MUST
VIEW

