

AOW 02.27.17, HOMEWORK Due Friday, 03.03.17

O'er the ramparts we watched as athletes were kneeling: How far is too far? (Editorial by *The Tribune*)

Americans of all economic classes and backgrounds have always been able to escape life's troubles by watching sports. However, San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick may change that. Although he is not the first athlete to mix politics and sport, he is one of the highest profile athletes doing so.

Kaepernick's actions have sparked similar protests everywhere from high schools to professional leagues. While some have voiced their support of Kaepernick, the general public may have a different view. NFL viewership is down this fall, and a recent poll found Kaepernick to be the most disliked NFL player.

In protest movements, it's common for protesters to try push things to the next level. If athletes can kneel during the national anthem, can they turn their back? Can they stand on a U.S. flag, or even burn it? At some point, school administrators, coaches, sports leagues, reporters and fans will have to think about this. They will have to decide when a protest goes too far. I do not question someone's First Amendment right to express their views, but I do question the venue these athletes have chosen. I also question their target. By protesting the national anthem, they are protesting America.

While it is true that America has at times failed to live up to its ideals, but it has also made progress. There have been some tragic events lately involving black men and the police. America did not cause these tragedies, though. They occurred in Chicago, Charlotte, North Carolina, Tulsa, Oklahoma, New York City and other places. They are local incidents involving local people. Some police officers may have failed the African-American community, but most Americans are outraged when injustices occur. They want those responsible to be held accountable.

If famous athletes want to make a difference, there are better ways than protesting the national anthem. Both Kaepernick and the 49ers recently announced they will be donating to charities focusing on racial issues. Shouldn't that have been their initial response?

AOW 02.27.17, HOMEWORK Due Friday, 03.03.17

O'er the ramparts we watched as athletes were kneeling: How far is too far? (Editorial by *The Tribune*)

Americans of all economic classes and backgrounds have always been able to escape life's troubles by watching sports. However, San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick may change that. Although he is not the first athlete to mix politics and sport, he is one of the highest profile athletes doing so.

Kaepernick's actions have sparked similar protests everywhere from high schools to professional leagues. While some have voiced their support of Kaepernick, the general public may have a different view. NFL viewership is down this fall, and a recent poll found Kaepernick to be the most disliked NFL player.

In protest movements, it's common for protesters to try push things to the next level. If athletes can kneel during the national anthem, can they turn their back? Can they stand on a U.S. flag, or even burn it? At some point, school administrators, coaches, sports leagues, reporters and fans will have to think about this. They will have to decide when a protest goes too far. I do not question someone's First Amendment right to express their views, but I do question the venue these athletes have chosen. I also question their target. By protesting the national anthem, they are protesting America.

While it is true that America has at times failed to live up to its ideals, but it has also made progress. There have been some tragic events lately involving black men and the police. America did not cause these tragedies, though. They occurred in Chicago, Charlotte, North Carolina, Tulsa, Oklahoma, New York City and other places. They are local incidents involving local people. Some police officers may have failed the African-American community, but most Americans are outraged when injustices occur. They want those responsible to be held accountable.

If famous athletes want to make a difference, there are better ways than protesting the national anthem. Both Kaepernick and the 49ers recently announced they will be donating to charities focusing on racial issues. Shouldn't that have been their initial response?

AOW Response

Write a one-paragraph response to the article. This response is YOUR opinion, but it MUST respond to something stated in the article, and it MUST be based on facts and sound reasoning.

Ideas for how to respond: 1) **DISAGREE** with something (athletes have the right as citizens to engage in peaceful protest before a game), 2) **AGREE** with something and provide additional reasoning (athletes have a right to protest on their own time, not while on the job), 3) write a **DEFINITION** (what is protest and when is it appropriate), or 4) **SHARE** a personal experience and how it shaped your thinking on the issue.

AOW Response

Write a one-paragraph response to the article. This response is YOUR opinion, but it MUST respond to something stated in the article, and it MUST be based on facts and sound reasoning.

Ideas for how to respond: 1) **DISAGREE** with something (athletes have the right as citizens to engage in peaceful protest before a game), 2) **AGREE** with something and provide additional reasoning (athletes have a right to protest on their own time, not while on the job), 3) write a **DEFINITION** (what is protest and when is it appropriate), or 4) **SHARE** a personal experience and how it shaped your thinking on the issue.

