JACKIE ROBINSON MUSEUM

PRE-VISIT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Grades 6-12

To prepare for your Jackie Robinson Museum field trip, use the following as discussion questions, small group assignments, or short writing prompts in conjunction with the Museum Introduction Video, "Life is Not a Spectator Sport,"* and Resource Guide booklets (mailed to your school).

1. **Mallie Robinson's Lessons**
   Why did Jackie Robinson's mother, Mallie, leave Georgia and move her family to California? What lessons did Jackie learn from his mother during his childhood?
   > ***One step further:*** In what ways was Pasadena, California, where Jackie grew up, similar and different to Georgia when it came to policies and attitudes about race?

2. **Jackie's Leadership Traits –** Throughout his life, Jackie Robinson demonstrated the following character traits as a leader. Define each and look for an example in the Resource Guide.
   - Courage
   - Determination
   - Integrity
   - Strength
   - Humility
   - Compassion

3. **Youth Sports**
   In what other sports, besides baseball, did Jackie Robinson excel? How did his athleticism help him become a visionary public figure in the fight for social equality?

4. **Rachel Robinson**
   The video says "Rachel's passion and commitment to the values that Jack embraced were equal in intensity." Find 3 examples of Rachel Robinson's leadership in the video or Resource Guide.

5. **Breaking the Color Barrier**
   Branch Rickey and Jackie Robinson understood the first Black player in modern Major League Baseball would face racist opposition. What agreement did they make about how Jackie would deal with racist insults and attacks?
   > ***One step further:*** In what ways was this agreement consistent with Jackie's values and character traits? In what ways did it challenge Robinson's values and typical style for handling confrontation?

**Video link: https://vimeo.com/757202241. The video is password protected and the password is in your field trip confirmation email.*

6. **Racial Pride**
   The video mention's Jackie's "racial pride." What does "racial pride" mean to you? Why was this an especially significant trait during the period of Jim Crow? How did "racial pride" motivate Robinson to raise his voice for Black communities?

7. **Robinson's Patriotism**
   The video includes a speech excerpt in which Robinson says, "I am an American Negro first before I am a member of any [political] party."
   a. Find an example in the Resource Guide of a time when Jackie showed patriotism through service to his country.
   b. Find an example of a time he showed patriotism by speaking out to criticize the US or hold it accountable to its ideals.

8. **Business & Politics**
   Jackie Robinson believed that two keys to creating equal opportunities for African Americans were "*the ballot and the buck*." What do you think he meant by *ballot* and *buck*? Identify at least three events that support this idea he expressed.
   Make a connection: In the video, Jackie says, *"I don't have natural business talents, I have to learn that."* Think of a skill or area you want to learn to help you be a leader.

9. **Activism**
   Jackie Robinson said, *"The right of every American to first –class citizenship is the most important issue of our time."* What time period was he referring to? What did he mean by *"first-class citizenship?"* What does "first-class citizenship" mean today, and do all Americans share this right equally?

10. **Being Changemakers**
    At the end of the video, Rachel says that "*Jackie left us with the idea that…we can make a difference.*" Is there a change that you want to make in your school or communities?
    Brainstorm! What are some actions you can take to create that change?