

JACKIE ROBINSON: ATHLETE ACTIVIST

Post-Visit Resources and Discussion Questions



Following your *Jackie Robinson: Athlete Activist* field trip, consider using the following resources to continue the conversation in your classroom.

In this resource guide:

Jackie Robinson and Peer Athlete Activists of the 20th Century

Connecting Past and Present

Teen Civic Engagement

Jackie Robinson and Peer Athlete Activists of the 20th Century

Introduce your students to these athlete activists in conjunction with Jackie Robinson.

Paul Robeson

- Paul Robeson by Walter Greason, excerpt from [Hidden Voices: Hidden Voices: Stories of the Global African Diaspora Volume 2](#), p.83, produced by the NYC Public Schools Department of Social Studies and Civics
- [Activist on the Global Stage: Paul Robeson 1923](#), Timeline, Columbia Law School
- [The Story Behind Jackie Robinson's Moving Testimony Before the House Un-American Activities Committee](#) by Eric Nusbaum, Time Magazine, March 24, 2020

Eroseanna "Rose" Robinson

- [Sixty Years Ago She Refused to Stand for the Anthem](#) by Amira Rose Davis, Zora
- Journalist Jemele Hill on Eroseanna "Rose" Robinson: Watch on [Instagram](#) or listen on podcast *Spolitics*, [Episode 16: The Politics of Creating Your Own Lane](#)
- ["Black Excellence: Eroseanne "Rose" Robinson"](#) by @ashleythebaronness on TikTok

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1968 Olympic Project for Human Rights (John Carlos, Tommie Smith, Wyomia Tyus)

- [Jackie Robinson and the 1968 Olympic Boycott](#), Jackie Robinson Museum
- [How Olympic Champion Wyomia Tyus Found Her Voice At the '68 Games](#), WBUR, October 26, 2018

Bill Russell

- [Among Pro Athletes, Bill Russell Was a Pioneering Activist](#), *New York Times*, July 31, 2022
- [How Bill Russell Fought Racism By Educating & Inspiring Others | Respect Your OGs with Jaylen Brown](#), Uninterrupted
- [Bill Russell, activist for the ages](#) by Martenzie Johnson, *Andscape*, July 12, 2019

Muhammad Ali

- Muhammad Ali by Yohuru Williams and Michael Long, excerpt from [Hidden Voices: Hidden Voices: Stories of the Global African Diaspora Volume 2](#), p.225, produced by the NYC Public Schools Department of Social Studies and Civics
- [Muhammad Ali](#), documentary by Ken Burns, [PBS LearningMedia](#) Lessons and Activities including [Should Professional Athletes Use Their Platforms and Status to Speak Out about Social and Political Issues?](#)
- [Muhammad Ali: A Transcendent Life: Social Justice and Civil Rights Icon](#), a Timeline by University of Louisville Libraries

Althea Gibson

- [Pioneers: Jackie Robinson and Althea Gibson](#), Jackie Robinson Museum
- [Leveling the Playing Field: Althea Gibson](#), National Museum of African American History and Culture
- [Preview: American Masters: Althea](#), PBS, including supplementary timeline and clips

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Connecting Past and Present

Have your students build on their teamwork done during the culminating activity with these articles and discussion questions.

Focus Area: Media and Communications

NEWS: [NCAA calls on fans, social media platforms to curb abuse as it releases first online harassment study](#), NCAA (2024)

NEWS: [Chicago Sky Utilizes AI Campaign to Prevent Online Harassment and Cyberbullying](#)

NEWS: [Elite athletes face appalling online abuse. This Games, the Paris Olympics is trying to shield them from it](#) by Thomas Germain, BBC.com

RESOURCE: [Owning the Narrative: How Athletes Are Disrupting the Media Landscape, Reshaping Sports Culture and Transforming the Future of Sports Storytelling*](#), a report by USC's Norman Lear Center and Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, Published October 2025

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Athletes and public figures receive constant comments online. How might the impact of cyberbullying differ for a public figure like Angel Reese vs. an everyday teen?
- Should social media platforms do more to protect users from online harassment? If yes, what policies or tools would you want to see?
- What is a change you can personally make today in how you engage with others online and combat cyberbullying?

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Focus Area: Politics

NEWS: [‘Shut up and dribble’ no more: US athletes juggle the interplay of sports and politics](#), by Andrew Lawrence, *The Guardian*, September 10, 2024

NEWS: [What Happened to the Politically Conscious Black Athlete?](#), by Jemele Hill, *The Atlantic*, September 10, 2024

NEWS: [Most athletes have chosen to ‘shut up and dribble’ over Gaza](#), by Nathan Kalman-Lamb and Derek Silva, *The Guardian*, October 27, 2025

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think some athletes and entertainers choose to stay silent on political issues while others speak out? What risks do they have to consider in the present day?
- In what ways can sporting events (venues, major games) become spaces for political expression?

Focus Area: Business

NEWS: [NBA legend Carmelo Anthony talks about working for social change](#) by Christopher Cason, *Fast Company*, April 15, 2025

RESOURCE: [The Rise of Athlete Entrepreneurs: From Brand Partnerships to Equity Holders](#), by Matthew Markowitz, Athelo Group

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you think professional athletes have a responsibility to give back to—or invest in—their communities? Why or why not?
- Can giving money create long-term change, or does activism require more hands-on involvement?
- Some argue that wealthy athletes donating money is the least they can do. Do you agree or disagree?

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Focus Area: Civil Rights

RESOURCE: [A Team Effort: The Critical Role of Athletes in Civic Mobilization](#), by DeMetris Causer, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, September 18, 2024

RESOURCE: [The Team](#), including the [All Vote No Play](#) initiative

NEWS: [UMD-Post Poll: Americans Split on Athletes Sharing Political Views](#) by Rachael Grahame, University of Maryland Philip Merrill College of Journalism, October 12, 2023.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Based on these resources (or outside research), how does today's athlete activism reflect similarities to or differences from athlete activists of the civil rights era like Jackie Robinson?
- How can athletes use their platforms to drive voter engagement and civic participation? What responsibilities, if any, come with that influence?

Teen Civic Engagement

LESSON: [The Power to Change the World: A Teaching Unit on Student Activism in History and Today](#), New York Times Learning Network, 2018

LESSON: [Youth Taking Charge! Placing Student Activism in Historical Context](#), Facing History and Ourselves

RESOURCE: [Youth Activist Movements of the 2010s: A Timeline and Brief History of a Decade of Change](#), by Jameelah Nasheed, *Teen Vogue*, part of the [#20teens](#) series