

JACKIE ROBINSON: ATHLETE ACTIVIST

Pre-Visit Resources and Discussion Questions



As you prepare for your Jackie Robinson Museum field trip, select from the following resources and prompts for discussion questions, small group assignments, or short writing prompts in conjunction with the Museum Introduction Video, “[Life is Not a Spectator Sport](#),”* and [Timeline and Learning Guide](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)).

What is Athlete Activism?

LESSON: [Understanding #TakeaKnee and Athlete Activism](#), *Facing History & Ourselves*

RESOURCE: ‘[Shut up and play](#)’: a brief history of athlete activism, by Steph Doehler, Open Learn, October 31, 2022

RESOURCE: [Athlete Activism: Social Change Through Sport](#), *SportPsych Works*, a newsletter-style fact sheet publication of APA Division 47, Society for Sport, Exercise, & Performance Psychology, September 2017

MEDIA: [The Tradition Of Activism In Sports](#), Scripps News (2022)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What makes an athlete an *athlete activist*?
- Are there requirements or guidelines for what athletes say, do, practice, or believe to earn that label? Discuss in small groups, then use the resources linked above to revise or enhance your definition.

History of Athlete Activism

RESOURCE: [Save the Culture: 20 Defining Moments of How Black Athletes Changed History](#), by Monica Lewis, *The Dig*, a magazine of Howard University, August 18, 2025

RESOURCE: [Athletes and activism: The long, defiant history of sports protests](#) by Steve Wulf, *Andscape*, January 30, 2019

*The video link is password protected and the password is in your confirmation email.
If you encounter a broken link in this document, let us know at museum@jackierobinson.org.

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RESOURCE: [People's Historians Online: Black Athletes and the Black Freedom Struggle](#), Zinn Education Project – recorded presentation (with transcript), plus don't miss the articles, films, and additional resources linked at the bottom of the page

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do the athlete activists featured in the recommended resources have in common?
- In what ways are they different from each other in terms of strategies and or objectives?

Athlete Activism Today

NEWS: [‘Revolt of the Black Athlete’ author Dr. Harry Edwards says a new equality movement is coming to sports and the nation](#), *Andscape*, September 10, 2025

NEWS: [Where’s Athlete Activism During Trump’s Second Term?](#), *The Fulcrum*, August 14, 2025

LESSON: [Should Athletes Speak Out On Social and Political Issues?](#) *New York Times Learning Network*, February 5, 2021

MEDIA: [Colin Kaepernick on how Social Media Transforms Athlete Activism](#), ISPO

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are current trends in athlete activism?
- What are current trends in how the public responds to athlete activism?