

Flag Day
Lesson Plan
11th & 12th Grades

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW
RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF
RELIGION, OR PROHIBITING THE FREE
EXERCISE THEREOF; OR ABRIDGING
THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;
OR THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE
PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE, AND TO
PETITION THE GOVERNMENT
FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.



Wreaths Across America

Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grade: 11 th & 12 th	Lesson: The Flag, the National Anthem, and the First Amendment

<p>OBJECTIVES: NCSS; 10. CIVIC IDEALS AND PRACTICES An understanding of civic ideals and practices is critical to full participation in society and is an essential component of education for citizenship. This theme enables students to learn about the rights and responsibilities of citizens of a democracy, and to appreciate the importance of active citizenship.</p>	<p>STRATEGIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing/Coloring <input type="checkbox"/> Writing <input type="checkbox"/> Write/Pair/Share <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Questions <input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups <input type="checkbox"/> Large Group
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MATERIALS:	Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; copies of Write/Pair/Share Activity; copies of “Kneeling during the National Anthem: Top 3 Pros and Cons”; copies of “An open letter to Colin Kaepernick, from a Green Beret-turned-long snapper”; copies of “Kneeling during the anthem isn’t protesting against racism. It’s protesting against America”; copies of the Follow-up Discussion Questions.
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Engage: Hook the students	Read Aloud: The First Amendment to the US Constitution states: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” Hand out Write/Pair/Share Activity. Students will have 5 minutes to complete the reading/writing of the W/P/S Activity.
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Explore: Students make sense of a concept through observations.	This lesson can be utilized as an opportunity to have a class debate or as an opportunity to have students close read two opposing viewpoints with class reading/writing/discussion. The method you choose, will determine how you distribute the materials. Hand out: copies of “Kneeling during the National Anthem: Top 3 Pros and Cons”; copies of “An open letter to Colin Kaepernick, from a Green Beret-turned-long snapper”; copies of “Kneeling during the anthem isn’t protesting against racism. It’s protesting against America”. Students will close read each of the articles. If students have their own copy, allow them to make notes on their papers. Hand out the Follow-up Discussion Questions. Allow students time to complete the questions.
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Explain: Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students.	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">abridge</td> <td style="width: 33%;">peaceful protest</td> <td style="width: 33%;">boycott</td> </tr> <tr> <td>petition</td> <td>civil disobedience</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>redress</td> <td>sit-ins</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	abridge	peaceful protest	boycott	petition	civil disobedience		redress	sit-ins	
abridge	peaceful protest	boycott								
petition	civil disobedience									
redress	sit-ins									

Elaborate: Students apply what they have learned.	Students learn about the rights and responsibilities of citizens of a democracy, and to appreciate the importance of active citizenship by completing the materials and activities in this lesson plan.
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Evaluate: assessment.	The teacher will determine the activities that will be utilized for formal and informal assessment.
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Enrichment/Service-Learning Project	Participate in the tradition started by the Freeport Flag Ladies of waving the American Flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Share your class or your school participating in this event by documenting your participation and sharing it with others around the world! #FlagsAcrossTheCountry share it here See the last page of the lesson plan for more information.
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Name _____

Write-Pair-Share

You will have **5 minutes** to analyze the following: Peaceful protests involve people engaging in nonviolent civil disobedience to enact political change. A peaceful protest does not employ any violence on the part of the protesters. It is important to keep in mind that just because a protest is peaceful does not mean that it does not break any laws.

A riot is a more chaotic event in which a group of people act in a way that is considered disorderly and out of control. Some riots have political aims, while others do not. QUESTION: Do you think there is ever a time when violence is the way to achieve political goals or change? Why or why not? At the end of 5 minutes, you will be paired with a partner, compare your answer to your partner's answer.

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Name _____

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Kneeling during the National Anthem: Top 3 Pros and Cons

<https://www.procon.org/>

The debate about kneeling or sitting in protest during the national anthem was ignited by Colin Kaepernick in 2016 and escalated to become a nationally divisive issue.

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick first refused to stand during “The Star-Spangled Banner” on Aug. 26, 2016 to protest racial injustice and police brutality in the United States. Since that time, many other professional football players, high school athletes, and professional athletes in other sports have refused to stand for the national anthem. These protests have generated controversy and sparked a public conversation about the protesters’ messages and how they’ve chosen to deliver them. [7] [8] [9]

The 2017 NFL pre-season began with black players from the Seattle Seahawks, Oakland Raiders, and Philadelphia Eagles kneeling or sitting during the anthem with support of white teammates. On Aug. 21, 2017, twelve Cleveland Browns players knelt in a prayer circle during the national anthem with at least four other players standing with hands on the kneeling players’ shoulders in solidarity, the largest group of players to take a knee during the anthem to date. [20] [21]

Jabrill Peppers, a rookie safety for the Browns, said of the protest, “There’s a lot of racial and social injustices in the world that are going on right now. We just decided to take a knee and pray for the people who have been affected and just pray for the world in general... We were not trying to disrespect the flag or be a distraction to the team, but as men we thought we had the right to stand up for what we believed in, and we demonstrated that.” [21]

Seth DeValve, a tight end for the Browns and the first white NFL player to kneel for the anthem, stated, “The United States is the greatest country in the world. And it is because it provides opportunities to its citizens that no other country does. The issue is that it doesn’t provide equal opportunity to everybody, and I wanted to support my African-American teammates today who wanted to take a knee. We wanted to draw attention to the fact that there’s things in this country that still need to change.” [20]

However, some Cleveland Browns fans expressed their dissatisfaction on the team’s Facebook page. One commenter posted, “Pray before or pray after. Taking a knee during the National Anthem these days screams disrespect for our Flag, Our Country and our troops. My son and the entire armed forces deserve better than that.” [22]

On Friday, Sep. 22, 2017, President Donald Trump stated his opposition to NFL players kneeling during the anthem: “Wouldn’t you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, to say ‘Get that SOB off the field right now. Out! He’s fired. He’s fired!’” The statement set off a firestorm on both sides of the debate. Roger Goodell, NFL Commissioner, said of Trump’s comments, “Divisive comments like these demonstrate an unfortunate lack of respect for the NFL, our great game and all of our players, and a failure to understand the overwhelming force for good our clubs and players represent in our communities.” [23]

The controversy continued over the weekend as the President continued to tweet about the issue and others contributed opinions for and against kneeling during the anthem. On Sunday, Sep. 24, in London before the first NFL game played after Trump’s comments, at least two dozen Baltimore Ravens and Jacksonville Jaguars players knelt during the American national anthem, while other players, coaches, and staff locked arms, including Shad Khan, who is the only Pakistani-American Muslim NFL team owner. Throughout the day, some players, coaches, owners, and other staff

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kneeled or linked arms from every team except the Carolina Panthers. The Pittsburgh Steelers chose to remain in the locker room during the anthem, though offensive tackle and Army Ranger veteran Alejandro Villanueva stood at the entrance to the field alone, for which he has since apologized. Both the Seattle Seahawks and Tennessee Titans teams stayed in their locker rooms before their game, leaving the field mostly empty during the anthem. The Seahawks stated, “As a team, we have decided we will not participate in the national anthem. We will not stand for the injustice that has plagued people of color in this country. Out of love for our country and in honor of the sacrifices made on our behalf, we unite to oppose those that would deny our most basic freedoms.” [24] [25] [27]

The controversy jumped to other sports as every player on WNBA’s Indiana Fever knelt on Friday, Sep. 22 (though WNBA players had been kneeling for months); Oakland A’s catcher Bruce Maxwell knelt on Saturday becoming the first MLB player to do so; and Joel Ward, of the NHL’s San Jose Sharks, said he would not rule out kneeling. USA soccer’s Megan Rapinoe knelt during the anthem in 2016, prompting the US Soccer Federation to issue Policy 604-1, ordering all players to stand during the anthem. [28] [29] [30] [31] [35]

The country was still debating the issue well into the week, with Trump tweeting throughout, including on Sep. 26: “The NFL has all sort of rules and regulations. The only way out for them is to set a rule that you can’t kneel during our National Anthem!” [26]

On May 23, 2018, the NFL announced that all 32 team owners agreed that all players and staff on the field shall “stand and show respect for the flag and the Anthem” or face “appropriate discipline.” However, all players will no longer be required to be on the field during the anthem and may wait off field or in the locker room. The new rules were adopted without input from the players’ union. On July 20, 2018, the NFL and the NFL Players Association (NFLPA) issued a joint statement putting the anthem policy on hold until the two organizations come to an agreement. [32] [33] [34]

During the nationwide Black Lives Matter protests following the death of George Floyd, official league positions on kneeling began to change. On June 5, 2020, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell stated, “We, the National Football League, condemn racism and the systematic oppression of black people. We, the National Football League, admit we were wrong for not listening to NFL players earlier and encourage all players to speak out and peacefully protest.” [39]

Before the June 7, 2020 race, NASCAR lifted the guidelines that all team members must stand during the anthem, allowing NASCAR official and Army veteran Kirk Price to kneel during the anthem. [40]

On June 10, 2020, the US Soccer Federation rescinded the league’s requirement that players stand during the anthem amid the Black Lives Matter protests following the death of George Floyd. The US Soccer Federation stated, “It has become clear that this policy was wrong and detracted from the important message of Black Lives Matter.” [35]

In the wake of the 2020 killing of George Floyd and the protests that followed, 52% of Americans stated it was “OK for NFL players to kneel during the National Anthem to protest the police killing of African Americans.” [41]

The debate largely quieted after the summer of 2020, with a brief resurgence about athletes displaying political gestures on Olympic podiums of Tokyo in 2021 and Beijing in 2022.

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Is Kneeling during the National Anthem an Appropriate Form of Protest?

PRO # 1

When one believes the United States is not living up to its ideals of freedom, liberty, and justice for all, kneeling during the national anthem is appropriate and justified.

Colin Kaepernick said, "I'm not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color... To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder." [1]

Many other athletes have since refused to stand for the national anthem for similar reasons. Denver Broncos linebacker Brandon Marshall, who also has knelt during the national anthem, said, "the message is I'm against social injustice... I'm not against the military or police or America at all." [2][7]

NASCAR official and Army veteran Kirk Price, who kneeled during the anthem at a June 2020 race, stated, "I fully respect the flag... That's not what the issue is here. The issue is African Americans being oppressed for so long under the flag... But to be honest with you, I know what the flag stands for and I know about Black people being oppressed because I am one." [42]

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PRO # 2

When a national figure such as an NFL player kneels during the national anthem, it shocks people into paying attention and generates conversation.

Many people were shocked and offended when Colin Kaepernick refused to stand for "The Star-Spangled Banner," and the resulting debate has continued as additional players joined the protest. [6] [12]

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell originally disagreed with those actions, but later praised what he called a movement from protest to progress: "I truly respect our players wanting to speak out and change the community... We want them to use that voice." [16]

Social media has given a voice to strong opinions on both sides, including members of the armed forces who express support Kaepernick's right to protest by posting under the hashtag #VeteransForKaepernick. [5]

PRO # 3

Kneeling during the national anthem is a legal form of peaceful protest, which is a First Amendment right.

President Obama said Kaepernick was "exercising his constitutional right to make a statement. I think there's a long history of sports figures doing so." [3]

The San Francisco 49ers said in a statement, "In respecting such American principles as freedom of religion and freedom of expression, we recognize the right of an individual to choose and participate, or not, in our celebration of the national anthem." [1]

A letter signed by 35 US veterans stated that "Far from disrespecting our troops, there is no finer form of appreciation for our sacrifice than for Americans to enthusiastically exercise their freedom of speech." [12]

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CON # 1

Kneeling during the national anthem shows disrespect for the flag and members of the armed forces.

The national anthem pays respect to the people who have risked their lives, been injured, or died defending the United States. Carole Isham, a great-great-great-granddaughter of the writer of the national anthem (Francis Scott Key) stated that "it just blows my mind that somebody like (Kaepernick) would do what he does to dishonor the flag of this country and the national anthem when we have young men and women overseas fighting for this country, people that have died for this country." [13]

Drew Brees, New Orleans Saints quarterback, supported Kaepernick's message but disagreed with the delivery: "[I]t's an oxymoron that you're sitting down, disrespecting that flag that has given you the freedom to speak out." Brees reiterated his position on June 3, 2020 in the wake of the George Floyd killing. However, in light of the backlash that followed, Brees retracted his statement. In reaction, on June 5, 2020, President Trump tweeted, "OLD GLORY is to be revered, cherished, and flown high... "We should be standing up straight and tall, ideally with a salute, or a hand on heart. There are other things you can protest, but not our Great American Flag – NO KNEELING!" [18] [36] [37] [38]

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CON # 2

Kneeling during the national anthem angers many and sows division in our country.

Kaepernick and others who have refused to stand for the national anthem have caused division among their teams, their fans, and across the country. The Santa Clara police union hinted they would boycott providing security at games after Kaepernick revealed his reasons for protesting the national anthem and wore socks depicting pigs in police uniforms. [14][15]

Fans have been burning Kaepernick's jersey to show their distaste for his actions. One video of a jersey on fire posted on Facebook was captioned, "He says he's oppressed making \$126 million. Well, Colin, here's my salute to you."

[17]

CON # 3

Kneeling during the national anthem is an ineffective and counterproductive way to promote a cause.

Clemson University football coach Dabo Swinney said in a press conference: "I don't think it's good to be a distraction to your team. I don't think it's good to use your team as the platform." [4]

President Obama expressed concern that not standing for the national anthem can get in the way of the message: "As a general matter, when it comes to the flag the national anthem and the meaning that holds for our men and women in uniform and those who've fought for us – that is a tough thing for them to get past to then hear what his [Kaepernick's] deeper concerns are." [3]

Malcolm Jenkins, safety for the Philadelphia Eagles, supported Kaepernick's message but said, "My grandfather served [in the military]. And this is a country that I love. So, me not standing for the national anthem isn't really going to get me the results that I want." [19]

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End Notes

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3. Athena Jones and Tom LoBianco, "Obama: Colin Kaepernick 'Exercising Constitutional Right,'" cnn.com, Sep. 5, 2016
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5. Jennifer Lee Chan, "#VeteransForKaepernick," ninerstation.com, Aug. 31, 2016
6. Democracy Now!, "More NFL Players Join Colin Kaepernick In National Anthem Protest," democracynow.org, Sep. 9, 2016
7. Telesur, "Kaepernick Kneels Again, This Time on Monday Night Football," telesurtv.net, Sep. 12, 2016
8. Tessa Berenson, "Entire San Francisco High School Football Team Kneels for National Anthem," time.com, Sep. 16, 2016
9. Nunzio Ingrassia, "Athletes Who Have Joined Colin Kaepernick's National Anthem Protest," foxsports.com, Sep. 12, 2016
10. CNN, "US Navy Sailor Sits During National Anthem," cnn.com, Sep. 9, 2016
11. Zuri Davis, "Ben Carson Explained Why He Thinks Colin Kaepernick Was Wrong to Sit through the National Anthem," rare.us, Aug. 28, 2016
12. Veterans for Kaepernick, "An Open Letter of Support for Colin Kaepernick from American Military Veterans," medium.com, Sep. 2, 2016
13. Josh Peter, "Descendant of National Anthem Songwriter Rips Colin Kaepernick," usatoday.com, Sep. 15, 2016
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15. Tom Pelissero, "Vikings' Alex Boone Rips Ex-Teammate Colin Kaepernick for Lack of Respect," usatoday.com, Aug. 29, 2016
16. Tom Pelissero, "Roger Goodell Praises Player Demonstrations for Going from 'Protests to Progress,'" usatoday.com, Sep. 19, 2016
17. Cindy Boren, "Colin Kaepernick Protest Has 49ers Fans Burning Their Jerseys," washingtonpost.com, Aug. 28, 2016
18. Mike Triplett, "Drew Brees 'Wholeheartedly' Disagrees with Colin Kaepernick's Method of Protest," espn.com, Aug. 29, 2016
19. Ryan Wilson, "NFL Players: There Are Better Ways for Kaepernick to Affect Change," cbssports.com, Aug. 29, 2016
20. Satchel Price, "Cleveland Browns Players Kneel During National Anthem," msbnation.com, Aug. 22, 2017
21. Pat McManamon, "12 Browns Players Kneel in Prayer over Racial, Social Injustice," espn.com, Aug. 22, 2017
22. Courtney Danser, "Angry Fans Take to Cleveland Browns Facebook Page over National Anthem Protest," News 5 Cleveland website, Aug. 22
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24. CNN Wires, "Jaguars, Ravens Kneel During Anthem as NFL Sunday Kicks Off," fox2now.com, Sep. 24, 2017
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27. Tribune Media Wire, "Alejandro Villanueva Apologizes for Throwing Steeler Teammates 'under the Bus,'" fox8.com, Sep. 25, 2017
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ARTICLE 2

“An open letter to Colin Kaepernick, from a Green Beret-turned-long snapper”

The Army Times

By: Nate Boyer

August 30, 2016

<https://www.armytimes.com/opinion/2016/08/30/an-open-letter-to-colin-kaepernick-from-a-green-beret-turned-long-snapper/>

Colin,

I'm a big fan. I've been pulling for you ever since I first saw you play in the 2012 preseason. I was raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and have been a die-hard 49ers fan as long as I can remember – growing up, I was Joe Montana for Halloween two years straight.

I proudly wore the red and gold for an afternoon when I had a tryout with the 49ers last spring. I ultimately ended up in training camp with the Seattle Seahawks, but I'll never forget the one day I got to be a 49er.

I don't know a lot, but I do know that I catch a lot of flak for expressing my opinions, something you are now very familiar with. I also know you support the military – "God Bless Our Troops" is written on the football that you and former 49er teammate Colt McCoy signed for one of the charities I work with. The football's currently sitting in my parents' house; my dad bid the highest at the charity's auction. Unfortunately, I also know that racism still exists in our country, as it does in every other country on this planet, and I hate that I know that. I hate the third verse of our national anthem, but thankfully we don't sing that verse anymore. I hate that at times I feel guilty for being white.

In 2004, I witnessed genocide firsthand in the Darfur region of Sudan. The fact that hate and oppression still exist at that level in our world really hurts me. I met countless young Africans who were enamored with America and the opportunities that exist here. Those people would have given anything to experience what I had grown up with, even just for one day.

I joined the Army upon returning to the U.S. because I believed people like that were worth fighting for. De Oppresso Liber ("To Free the Oppressed") is the Army Special Forces motto, and the reason I wanted to become a Green Beret. I didn't enlist to fight for what we already have here; I did it because I wanted to fight for what those people didn't have there: Freedom.

I am in no way political, but I'm proud that we have an African-American president, and that I got to serve under him. Overcoming racism at home is a slow process, and we still have a long way to go, but most of us are trying. That's what sets us apart from so many other places. In this country, no matter who you are, where you come from, what color you are, you can try.

During college football games, both teams usually wait in the locker room until after the national anthem. That always bothered me. Leading the team out of the tunnel while carrying the American flag meant a lot, but I still regretted not being out there to stand for that song.

The only time I got to stand on the sideline for the anthem was during my one and only NFL preseason game, against the Denver Broncos. As I ran out of the tunnel with the American flag, I could feel myself swelling with pride, and as I stood on the sideline with my hand on my heart as the anthem began, that swelling burst into tears.

I thought about how far I'd come and the men I'd fought alongside who didn't make it back. I thought about those overseas who were risking their lives at that very moment. I selfishly thought about what I

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had sacrificed to get to where I was, and while I knew I had little to no chance of making the Seahawks' roster as a 34-year-old rookie, I was trying.

That moment meant so much more to me than even playing in the game did, and to be Even though my initial reaction to your protest was one of anger, I'm trying to listen to what you're saying and why you're doing it. When I told my mom about this article, she cautioned me that "the last thing our country needed right now was more hate." As usual, she's right.

There are already plenty of people fighting fire with fire, and it's just not helping anyone or anything. So, I'm just going to keep listening, with an open mind.

I look forward to the day you're inspired to once again stand during our national anthem. I'll be standing right there next to you. Keep on trying ... De Oppresso Liber.

Former Staff Sgt. Nate Boyer made multiple war-zone deployments as a Green Beret, including during the college football offseason while a student-athlete at the University of Texas. After long-snapping for the Longhorns, he was signed as a free agent by the Seattle Seahawks before the 2015 season. He is involved in multiple charitable causes, including Merqing Vets and Players with Jay Glazer and Waterboys, founded by New England Patriots defensive end Chris Long.

ARTICLE 3

"Kneeling during the anthem isn't protesting against racism. It's protesting against America."

The Washington Post

June 16, 2020

Marc Thiessen

As the covid-19 lockdowns wind down, many fans who long for the return of sports are dreading the return of anthem protests. In response to the brutal killing of George Floyd in police custody, some athletes, coaches and league officials have apologized for their earlier opposition to such protests. Incredibly, the U.S. Soccer Federation has even repealed its rule requiring all players on the national team to stand during the national anthem. They were right the first time.

Should athletes be allowed to use their platforms to protest racism? Absolutely. Soccer player Weston McKennie recently wore an armband with the message "Justice for George" during a professional match in Germany. God bless him. If sports leagues want to have a moment of silence and allow players to take a knee before the anthem, then by all means they should do so.

But let's be clear: The anthem and the flag symbolize the ideal of equality that America stands for, not those who failed to live up to those ideals. If you take a knee during the national anthem, you are not protesting racism in your country, you are protesting your country. There is a difference. You are not objecting to an evil that exists in America; you are saying America *is* evil. You are not saying we still have a long way to go in our journey toward full equality. You are saying that this country — where majorities twice voted to elect a black president — is fundamentally racist. And you are saying that the American flag and the American military are symbols of oppression.

Doubt it? Ask Colin Kaepernick, the man who launched the anthem protests, what he is protesting. Last year, he forced Nike to recall a flag-themed shoe because, the Wall Street Journal reported, it was "an offensive symbol." He also accused the U.S. military of "terrorist attacks against Black and Brown people for the expansion of American imperialism" and tweeted that "America militarism is the weapon wielded by American imperialism, to enforce its policing and plundering of the non-white world." Do you agree? Then take a knee. But don't say that you are not protesting our flag or our military when you do.

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If you want to protest the flag as a symbol of oppression, you are free to do so — because this is a free country. But don't be surprised if millions of good and decent Americans take offense at your gesture. Many of them fought for that flag, or saw loved ones die or suffer grievous injury carrying it into battle. They beat back the evils of Nazism, communism and terrorism, and liberated tens of millions from death camps and gulags and unspeakable tyranny. Their sacrifice is the reason you have the freedom to express your opinions. When you disrespect the flag, you disrespect them.

It's one thing for pro athletes to do this, but quite another for members of Team USA. Playing for your country is a privilege, not a right. You should not be allowed to wear the stars and stripes while dishonoring the Stars and Stripes at the same time. Players who insist on doing so want to have it both ways: They want to be able to disrespect their country and play for it, too. The irony is that they are protesting against men and women who sacrificed their lives to uphold their principles, yet they are unwilling to sacrifice the opportunity to play a game. If you cannot stand for your country's anthem, then don't put on your country's uniform.

Unfortunately, as sporting events resume, it seems anthem protests will not just be allowed, they will be compulsory — and dissent is not permitted. New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees recently spoke for millions when he said, "I love and respect my teammates, and I stand right there with them in regard to fighting for racial equality and justice," but "I also stand with my grandfathers, who risked their lives for this country, and countless other military men and women who do it on a daily basis." A woke mob descended on him and forced him to apologize. One teammate told him to "shut up." So much for freedom of speech.

America is far from perfect. But for all our flaws, we are the only country in human history that was built on an idea — the self-evident truth that all men are created equal. We have not always lived up to that ideal. But the American flag represents the ideal, not those who fall short of it. And it represents the sacrifice of courageous men and women who fought and died to preserve its promise for all Americans. Find a way to honor George Floyd without dishonoring them.

Wreaths Across America

Lesson Plan

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Name _____

Follow-up Discussion Questions:

1. Should professional athletes be allowed to kneel during the national anthem in protest? Why or why not?

2. Should student athletes be allowed to kneel during the national anthem in protest? Why or why not?

3. What forms of protest are acceptable in which venues? Which are not acceptable? Explain your answers.

4. Consider how you felt about the issue before reading these articles. After reading the pros and cons on this topic, has your thinking changed? If so, how? List 2-3 ways. If your thoughts have not changed, list 2-3 ways your better understanding of the "other side of the issue" now helps you better argue your position.

Wreaths Across America

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Enrichment/Service-Learning Project

The Battle of Baltimore inspired the lyrics of lawyer and poet Francis Scott Key in 1814. “O, say, can you see by the dawn’s early light what so proudly we hailed through the twilight’s last gleaming...” The waving American flag before, during, and after the fight was seen as a source of inspiration and resilience.

The red, white, and blue stars and stripes, also named “Old Glory,” have long symbolized patriotism, unity, and the spirit of pride in our nation.

Every Tuesday, Wreaths Across America encourages people all over the nation to take a moment to reflect on the common ground that unites us and say the Pledge of Allegiance. The Tuesday flag-waving tradition, now faithfully carried out on Route 1 in Jonesboro, Maine, was started by the Freeport Flag Ladies in 2001 following the terrorist attacks of 9-11-2001. The [Freeport Flag Ladies](#) waved flags for over 900 Tuesdays until they retired in 2019.

A monument to the flag ladies stands on the site, and individuals and groups are welcome to gather every Tuesday morning at 9:00 AM (Eastern) in person to raise and lower the flag during the pledge ceremony.

Anyone can raise the flag on Tuesday mornings and recite the pledge with us, and Wreaths Across America encourages you to document your participation and share it with the nation. #FlagsAcrossTheCountry [share it here](#).