

DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Ms. Villa begins the video by stating, “The National Anthem stands for freedom – even the freedom to do foolish things ... like protesting the National Anthem. But, like my mama always said, just because you are free to do the wrong thing, it doesn’t mean that you should.” Do you agree with Ms. Villa’s premise that the National Anthem stands for freedom? Why or why not? What do you think her mother’s axiom means? Explain.
- Later, after describing how NFL players protest the National Anthem, Ms. Villa explains that, “This was all started by San Francisco 49er quarterback Colin Kaepernick. His idea was to protest the alleged mistreatment of black people by police... and by America in general. As he put it, ‘I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color.’” Where do you think that Mr. Kaepernick got the wrong idea about black people being mistreated by police and by America? Considering that a black man was elected twice as President of the U.S. and that Mr. Kaepernick himself was making millions of dollars at the time in his preferred line of work, do you think that he can make a legitimate argument for black people being oppressed? Why or why not? What is flawed with Mr. Kaepernick’s reasoning, from a logical standpoint?
- Ms. Villa goes on to point out that, “Despite what we’re told by Black Lives Matter and their media allies, the police are not engaged in a coordinated campaign to destroy the black race. As Harvard Professor Roland Fryer – who happens to be black – and others have shown, there is no evidence of racial bias in police shootings.” Considering this truth, why do you think that so many people mistakenly believe that the police are involved in systemic oppression and shooting of black people? Do you think that young black people are more likely to believe the evidence-less claims of the Black Lives Matter group or are more likely to believe Professor Fryer, the academic expert? Explain.
- Later in the video, Ms. Villa notes that, “The protest is misdirected and self-defeating. Martin Luther King, Jr. protested discrimination against blacks on city busses by boycotting city busses. He never denigrated the flag or the Anthem. In fact, he did the opposite. He argued that the people who oppress blacks are the ones denigrating the flag and what it stands for. And what does it stand for? Ironically, it’s the protestors themselves who give us the answer: it stands for freedom.” Do you agree with Ms. Villa’s premise that the flag stands for freedom? Why or why not? In what ways, specifically, is the protest ‘misdirected and self-defeating?’ Explain.
- Towards the end of the video, Ms. Villa states that, “In America, where you are free to sit or stand during the National Anthem, sitting when you should be standing is more a statement about you than about America. And you don’t come off too well. You come off, frankly, as ignorant and ungrateful: ignorant about a country that works to correct its faults, and ungrateful for the opportunity and freedom that it offers all its citizens.” What do you think Ms. Villa means by this last point? Do you agree with her last point? Why or why not?

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: Colin Kaepernick

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Colin Kaepernick explains why he sat during national anthem,” then answer the questions that follow.

- What does Mr. Kaepernick claim would be ‘selfish’ of him to do? The article quotes Mr. Kaepernick as stating, “There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder.” What do you think Mr. Kaepernick is referring to? When Mr. Kaepernick started protesting, how did his team react? How did his coach react? Why did Mr. Kaepernick wait to start his protests?
- Do you agree with what Mr. Kaepernick did? Why or why not? Do you think that the NFL and the 49ers should let players protest if they want to? Explain. Considering that the entirety of his reasoning is dependent on a false narrative driven by a media with a liberal agenda with no basis in truth, do you think that Mr. Kaepernick made a foolish decision to protest an issue that doesn’t actually exist? Why or why not?
- Consider the following argument:

Sally: I’ve dated two different guys with red hair in the last five years.

Sally: Both of those guys were jerks.

Brenda: Yeah, guys with red hair are all jerks.

What is wrong with Brenda’s conclusion? Is her conclusion true? How does this argument form relate to the one Mr. Kaepernick is making about police shooting blacks? Explain.



QUIZ

EVERYONE SHOULD STAND FOR THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

- 1. What was the Southern Poverty Law Center originally founded as?**
 - a. A political attack group
 - b. A civil-rights law firm
 - c. A charity
 - d. A government program

- 2. What is a strategy of the Southern Poverty Law Center?**
 - a. Undermine legitimate political voices they oppose.
 - b. Empower groups they don't agree with.
 - c. Hold open discussions on college campuses.
 - d. Employ truth-seeking fundraising techniques.

- 3. The masterminds behind the Southern Poverty Law Center are fueling hate.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

- 4. Which of the following characterizes the values of the Southern Poverty Law Center?**
 - a. Rigorous debate
 - b. Honest discussion
 - c. Open exchange of ideas
 - d. None of the above.

- 5. On the Southern Poverty Law Center's notorious "Hate Map," they list ____ separate hate groups in the U.S.**
 - a. 14
 - b. 236
 - c. 558
 - d. 917



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

EVERYONE SHOULD STAND FOR THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

1. What football player started the trend of not participating in the national anthem?
 - a. Joe Montana
 - b. Colin Kaepernick
 - c. Peyton Manning
 - d. Brett Favre

2. What was the reason for boycotting the national anthem?
 - a. To protest the alleged mistreatment of black people by police—and by America in general.
 - b. To bring awareness to income inequality.
 - c. To inspire a new wave of American exceptionalism in the country.
 - d. To honor those that have served their country.

3. Statistics show that an unarmed black man is more likely to be killed by lightning than by a policeman.
 - a. True
 - b. False

4. What schools now have their athletes joining the national anthem protest?
 - a. Colleges
 - b. High schools
 - c. Elementary schools
 - d. All of the above.

5. Blacks have a lot more to fear from _____ than from _____.
 - a. Americans; the police
 - b. the police; Americans
 - c. the police; black criminals
 - d. black criminals; police

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000691077/article/colin-kaepernick-explains-why-he-sat-during-national-anthem>

Colin Kaepernick explains why he sat during national anthem



- By Steve Wyche
- NFL Media reporter
- Published: Aug. 27, 2016 at 10:04 a.m.
- Updated: Aug. 28, 2016 at 04:33 p.m.

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick has willingly immersed himself into controversy by refusing to stand for the playing of the national anthem in protest of what he deems are wrongdoings against African Americans and minorities in the United States.

His latest refusal to stand for the anthem -- he has done this in at least one other preseason game -- came before the 49ers' preseason loss to Green Bay at Levi's Stadium on Friday night.

"I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color," Kaepernick told NFL Media in an exclusive interview after the game. "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."

The 49ers issued a statement about Kaepernick's decision: "The national anthem is and always will be a special part of the pre-game ceremony. It is an opportunity to honor our country and reflect on the great liberties we are afforded as its citizens. 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."

Niners coach Chip Kelly told reporters Saturday that Kaepernick's decision not to stand during the national anthem is "his right as a citizen" and said "it's not my right to tell him not to do something."

The NFL also released a statement, obtained by NFL Media Insider Ian Rapoport: "Players are encouraged but not required to stand during the playing of the national anthem."

By taking a stand for civil rights, Kaepernick, 28, joins other athletes, like the NBA's Dwyane Wade, Chris Paul, LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony and several WNBA players in using their platform and status to raise awareness to issues affecting minorities in the U.S.

However, refusal to support the American flag as a means to take a stand has brought incredible backlash before and likely will in this instance. The NBA's Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf of the Denver Nuggets, formerly Chris Jackson before converting to Islam, refused to acknowledge the flag in protest, citing similar reasons as Kaepernick and saying that it conflicted with some of his Islamic beliefs.

Abdul-Rauf drew the ire of fans and was briefly suspended by the NBA before a compromise was worked out between the league and player, who eventually stood with his teammates and coaches at the playing of the national anthem.

Kaepernick said that he is aware of what he is doing and that he knows it will not sit well with a lot of people, including the 49ers. He said that he did not inform the club or anyone affiliated with the team of his intentions to protest the national anthem.

"This is not something that I am going to run by anybody," he said. "I am not looking for approval. I have to stand up for people that are oppressed. ... If they take football away, my endorsements from me, I know that I stood up for what is right."

Kaepernick said that he has thought about going public with his feelings for a while but that "I felt that I needed to understand the situation better."

He said that he has discussed his feelings with his family and, after months of witnessing some of the civil unrest in the U.S., decided to be more active and involved in rights for black people. Kaepernick, who is biracial, was adopted and raised by white parents and siblings.

Kaepernick's Twitter feed is filled with civil rights messages.

The former Super Bowl starting quarterback's decision to go public comes while he is fighting for his football life with the 49ers, who drafted him in the second round in 2011. He lost his starting job last season after being one of the most promising players in the NFL during his run under former coach Jim Harbaugh.

Over the past few months, his relationship with management has turned sour. He requested a trade last spring, which never came. He also has spent most of the offseason rehabilitating from operations to his left (non-throwing) shoulder, his hand and knee. His recovery left him unable to fully compete with Blaine Gabbert for months and has him seemingly in a bind to regain his starting job.

He made his preseason debut against the Packers and played in the second quarter, completing two of six passes for 14 yards. He looked as rusty as you'd expect from someone who has not played since last November.

Following the game, and without any knowledge of Kaepernick's non-football behavior, coach Chip Kelly said that there has never been any discussion about cutting Kaepernick. Rapoport added Saturday that Kelly will make "football decisions" on Kaepernick, despite the quarterback's comments.