

Name: _____

Athlete, Team, and League Statements

Part I

Instructions: Read the following statements and complete Part I of “Graphic Organizer—Analyzing Statements.”

Milwaukee Bucks players (NBA)— August 26, 2020

“We are calling for justice for Jacob Blake and demand the officers be held accountable. For this to occur, it is imperative for the Wisconsin state legislature to reconvene after months of inaction and take up meaningful measures to address issues of police accountability, brutality and criminal justice reform. We encourage all citizens to educate themselves, take peaceful and responsible action and remember to vote on Nov. 3.”

WNBA players—August 26, 2020

“We encourage everyone to go and register to vote, now, today. If you truly believe that Black Lives Matter, then vote. Go and complete the 2020 census now. Don’t wait. If we wait, we don’t make change. It matters, your voice matters, your vote matters. Do all you can to demand that your leaders stop with the empty words and do something.... We will continue to use our platform to speak of these injustices that are still happening and demand action for change. Black Lives Matter. Say Her Name. Say His Name.”

Milwaukee Brewers and Cincinnati Reds players (Major League Baseball)—August 26, 2020

“The players from the Brewers and Reds have decided to not play tonight’s baseball game. With our community and our nation in such pain, we wanted to draw as much attention to the issues that really matter, especially racial injustice and systemic oppression.”

Evander Kane (National Hockey League)—August 26, 2020

“It’s great to write statements. It’s great to send tweets. It’s great to post stories and pictures on Instagram, but at the end of the day, it’s gonna be about real action and meaningful change. Unfortunately, that still isn’t occurring and we need to be better.”

Naomi Osaka (Tennis)—August 26, 2020

“Watching the continued genocide of Black people at the hand of the police is honestly making me sick to my stomach. I’m exhausted of having a new hashtag popup every few days and I’m extremely tired of having this same conversation over and over again. When will it ever be enough?”

John Carlos (former Olympic athlete)— August 27, 2020

“It took a lot of individual courage to say, ‘Hey man, I vote that we boycott. I vote that we step back.’ And remember this. They’re stepping back from something they love. They’re stepping back from a situation where they may have turmoil relative to their contracts and commitments. But all that...goes out the window, man, when you get to the point where you have to scream....”

Baltimore Ravens players (National Football League)—August 27, 2020

“This is bigger than sports. Racism is embedded in the fabric of our nation’s foundation and is a blemish on our country’s history. If we are to change course and make our world a better place, we must face this problem head-on and act now to enact positive change. It is time to accept accountability and acknowledge the ramifications of slavery and racial injustice. Though we cannot right all the wrongs of our country’s history, we can:

- Arrest and charge the police officers responsible for Breonna Taylor’s killing and the shooting of Jacob Blake.
- Demand that Senator Mitch McConnell bring the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020 to the Senate floor for vote.
- End qualified immunity; require body cameras; ban chokeholds and no-knock warrants; hold police accountable in court; establish a framework to prohibit racial profiling at federal, state, and local levels....”

Name: _____

Black players of the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL)—August 29, 2020

“The Black players in the NWSL have been united in the ongoing fight against police brutality and systemic racism. These injustices called us to mobilize and establish how we will create necessary long-term change for the future.... With conviction, we demand justice for Jacob Blake, justice for George Floyd and justice for Breonna Taylor.”

Part II

Instructions: After completing Part I of the graphic organizer, read the following statement issued by the NBA and the National Basketball Players Association (the union that represents NBA players) announcing the end of the walkout and the resumption of games. Then complete Part II of the graphic organizer.

Joint Statement from the NBA and National Basketball Players Association (NBPA)—August 28, 2020

“[The NBA and National Basketball Players Association] agreed to resume NBA playoff games on Saturday, Aug. 29 with the understanding that the league together with the players will work to enact the following commitments:

1. The NBA and its players have agreed to immediately establish a social justice coalition, with representatives from players, coaches and governors, that will be focused on a broad range of issues, including increasing access to voting, promoting civic engagement, and advocating for meaningful police and criminal justice reform.

2. In every city where the league franchise owns and controls the arena property, team governors will continue to work with local elections

officials to convert the facility into a voting location for the 2020 general election to allow for a safe in-person voting option for communities vulnerable to COVID. If a deadline has passed, team governors will work with local elections officials to find another election-related use for the facility, including but not limited to voter registration and ballot receiving boards.

3. The league will work with the players and our network partners to create and include advertising spots in each NBA playoff game dedicated to promoting greater civic engagement in national and local elections and raising awareness around voter access and opportunity....

We look forward to the resumption of the playoffs and continuing to work together...to push for meaningful and sustainable change.”